The Moon in a Box presents

~CAUGHT IN THE ACT~

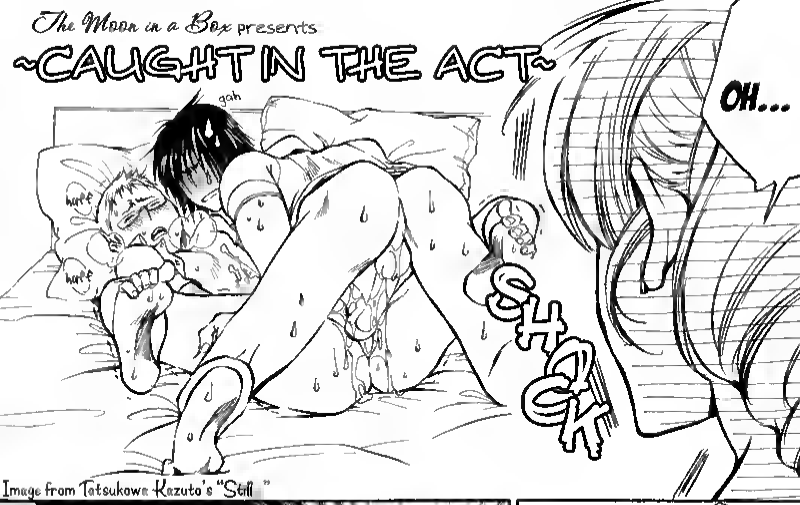

Image from Tatsukawa Kazuto's "Still"

The Moon in a Box

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Marvellous Heartbreak
Subarashi Shitsuren Chapter 1
ISBN 978-4-8124-6778-7
by Nishida Higashi
Translator: Kokiden
Editor: Abscondite
Coloring: Mousey
QCers: Mousey &
Mighty Maeve
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My Boss, My Secretary

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"ICHIBAN NO AI"
[The Greatest Love]

A oneshot from *Subarashii Shitsuren*
by Nishida Higashi

ISBN 978-4-8124-6778 7
First published 2007
Publisher Bamboo Comics, Take Shobo

Scans: Marti ~Thank you~
Cleaning, QC: Abscondite ~Thank you~
QC: Kokuden ~Thank you~
Half-baked translation, edits: lyrebird

A Half-Baked/Moon in a Box scanlation
URL: http://lyrebird.anthune.org/halfbaked/
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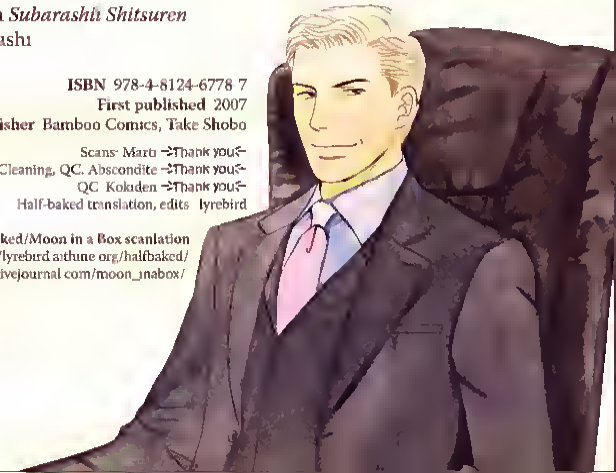

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Nishida Higashi's
Subarashii Shiteiseki
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素晴らしい失恋

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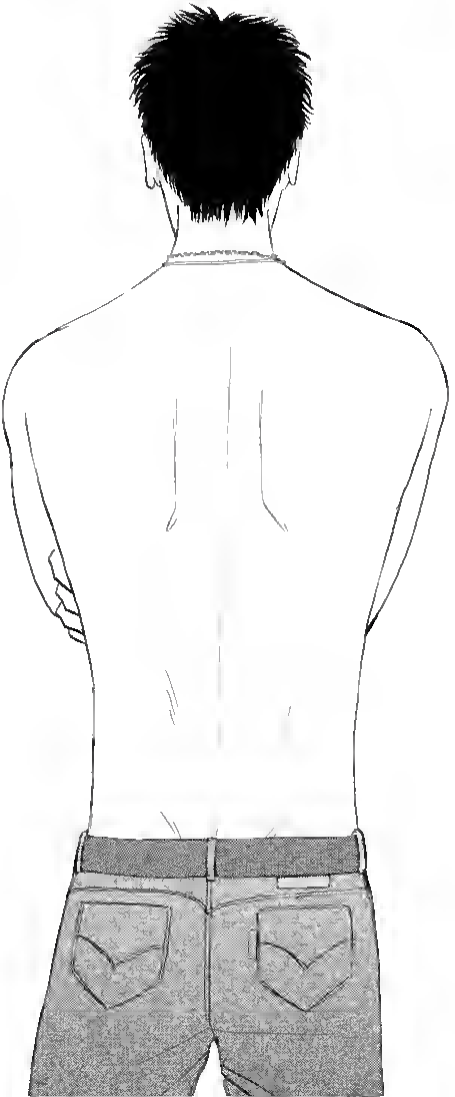
素晴らしい失恋／オレの社長　僕の秘書／快楽の地／乞う者／いちばんの愛／恋のカタチ―描き下ろし―



素晴らしい、失恋

西田東
Nishida Higashi

素晴らしい失恋

Marvelous Heartbreak

(Subarashii Shitsuren)

CONTENTS

素晴らしい失恋…3
Marvelous Heartbreak
別マ 2007年5月号

オレの社長 僕の秘書…45
別冊Bフレンド 2006年秋号

快楽の地…79
別冊 2006年9月号

乞う者…121
別冊 2007年1月号

いちばんの愛…149
The Greatest Love
別冊 2006年5月号

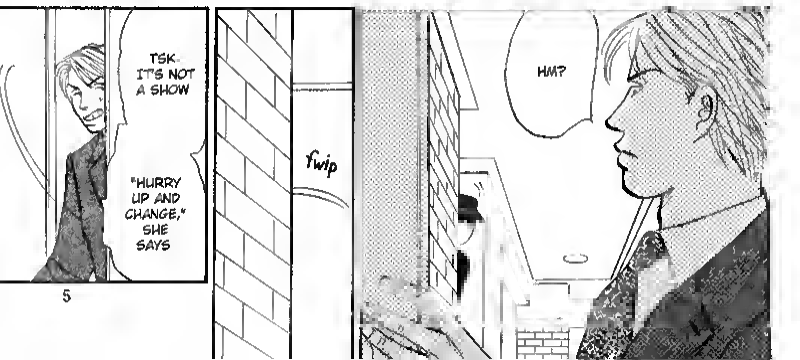
恋のカタチ…191
描き下ろし

素晴らしい失恋

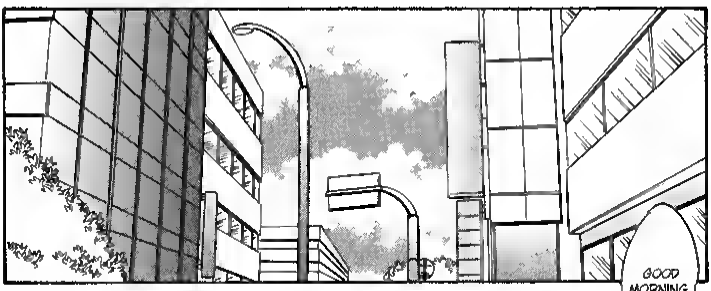
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
AT LEAST LET'S GO TOGETHER AS FAR AS THE STATION
AN ADULT-EROUS COUPLE SHOULDN'T UNASHAMEDLY APPEAR IN PUBLIC
BUT—
THEN FINE DON'T WAIT FOR ME. GO AHEAD AND LEAVE FIRST.
JUST SO YOU KNOW
O-OKAY. I'M SORRY.
I DON'T LIKE CLINGY WOMEN
PLEASE HURRY UP AND GO
GEEZ
THAT WOMAN SURE TAKES HER TIME LEAVING
WAH!
grab
HAVE A GOOD DAY AT THE OFFICE DARLING!
click
DO I GET INVOLVED WITH THIS TYPE OF WOMAN BECAUSE I LIKE THEM, OR...?

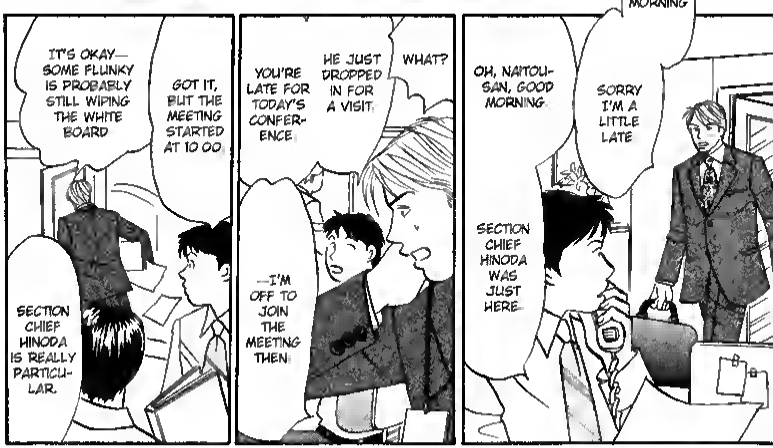
WELL, YOU'D BETTER HURRY UP AND CHANGE, THEN TOO BAD YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE
HOW NICE FOR YOU TO HAVE THAT LUXURY
THIS...
WILL MAKE ME EVEN LATER THAN USUAL!
HA HA HA, SORRY DARLING! I GOT YOUR SHIRT DIRTY!
OH..

swing
..HMPH! STUPID WOMAN!
clack
.....
SO NICE THAT I'M OVER IT. DON'T CALL ME ANYMORE, DARLING.

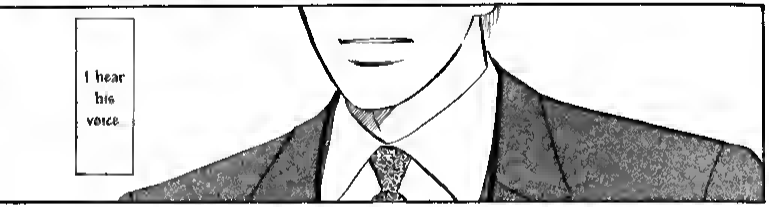

TSK. IT'S NOT A SHOW
"HURRY UP AND CHANGE," SHE SAYS
twip
HM?

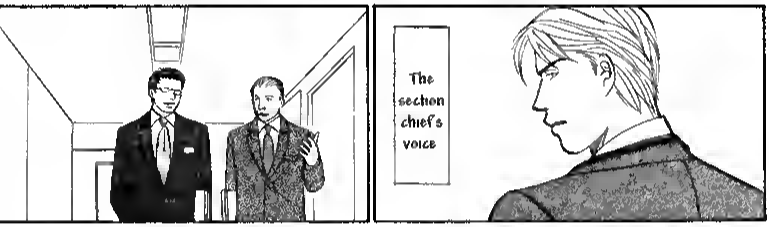
HAST
IT WOULD BE BAD IF SHE RAN INTO HIM...
THIS IS THAT GUY SHE TOLD ME ABOUT. NAITOU
RIGHT OFF THE BAT, HE'S FOOLING AROUND WITH ANOTHER WOMAN




GOOD MORNING
SORRY I'M A LITTLE LATE
OH, NAITOU-SAN, GOOD MORNING.
SECTION CHIEF HINODA WAS JUST HERE.
WHAT?
HE JUST DROPPED IN FOR A VISIT.
YOU'RE LATE FOR TODAY'S CONFERENCE.
—I'M OFF TO JOIN THE MEETING THEN.
GOT IT, BUT THE MEETING STARTED AT 10:00.
IT'S OKAY—SOME FLUNKY IS PROBABLY STILL WIPING THE WHITE BOARD.
SECTION CHIEF HINODA IS REALLY PARTICULAR.

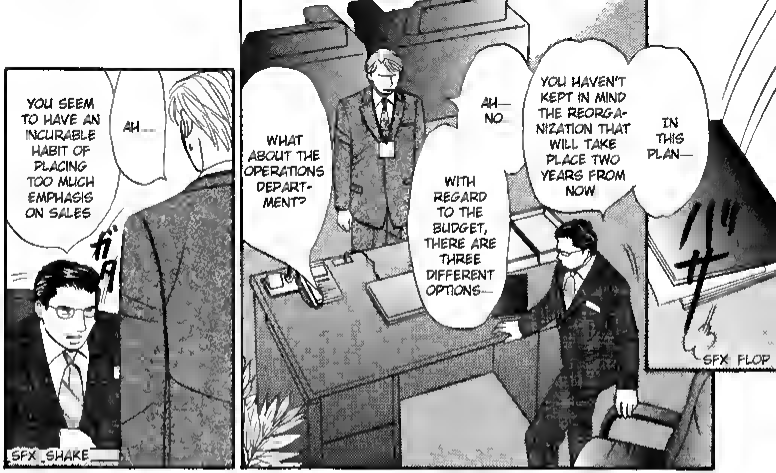
I'M GETTING ALL THE DOCU-MENTS TO-GETHER
LATELY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OZAWA IS REALLY KEEN ON PAPER-WORK
SECTION CHIEF HINODA—
SFX: STEP
SECTION CHIEF HINODA
……


I hear his voice


The section chief's voice

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WORK LATE EVERY NIGHT, BUT...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE, PLEASE INFORM THE SECTION STAFF.
NO... I DEFINITELY WON'T!
SECTION CHIEF HINODA, I MISSED THIS MORNING'S MEETING. IT'S INEXCUSABLE.
IF YOU WANT TO BECOME A SECTION HEAD IN A HURRY, THEN DON'T WORK BANKER'S HOURS.
Shit.
LEAVE IT TO ME!
I HOPE THAT WON'T BE THE CASE WHEN YOU PRESENT YOUR STRATEGIC PLAN TODAY.
IF THE CHIEF SLACKS OFF, THE DEPARTMENT SLACKS OFF.

I wonder why
I didn't have a chance to ask why he stopped by!
That's why the is so boss fussy about it
decisions and arrange-ments are made
Of course, that meeting is where important
They're not all that im-portant
how can I see the old man?
Look at all those gloomy guys crowded around him If they surround him like that
Should I look it over again?
I've spent a lot of time polishing this plan...
He's watching me
I'll speak to him as usual
Oh, he's spotted me...
...go on treating me like a puppy?
How long will he...
Since the time when I was a trainee, he's used me as an errand boy.


YOU SEEM TO HAVE AN INCURABLE HABIT OF PLACING TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON SALES
AH—
ガ
SFX: SHAKE
WHAT ABOUT THE OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT?
AH— NO
WITH REGARD TO THE BUDGET, THERE ARE THREE DIFFERENT OPTIONS—
YOU HAVEN'T KEPT IN MIND THE REORGANIZATION THAT WILL TAKE PLACE TWO YEARS FROM NOW
IN THIS PLAN—
SFX: FLOP

I'LL HAVE IT PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT BOARD MEETING
OTHER THAN THAT, IT ISN'T BAD
THIS PART NEEDS A LITTLE MORE WORK, BUT—
—

TH...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

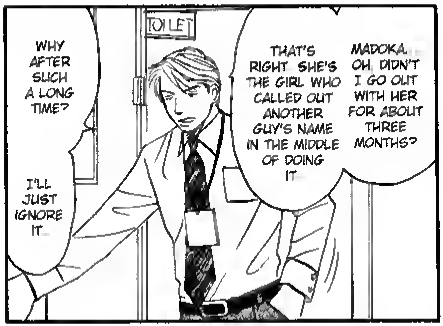
AHH..
Always smiling—
Am I turning into a complete idiot?
AH...
More like a dog than ever. I gratefully accepted,
and even smiled at the old man
Like an idiot...

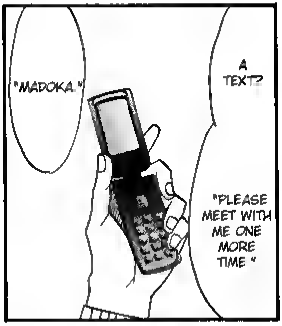
THAT'S NOT VERY ORIGINAL IT'S BORING.
HOLD ME TIGHT, LIKE THIS
YOU'RE NOT THAT INTERESTING ANYWAY.
THE INCREDIBLE THING ABOUT YOU IS YOUR BODY.
WHETHER WE'RE JUST FOOLING AROUND OR WE LOVE EACH OTHER, IT DOESN'T BRING OUT MY FEELINGS, AND IT DOES NOT TURN ME ON
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, DON'T ENTER FROM BEHIND IT'S TOO ANIMALISTIC
WAIT A MIN-UTE.

I'm—
But I'm—
This is what is called doing one's best—
Putting up with women who make you hug them so there's a good atmosphere

Where am I going with this?
Having to hold women
and to be held by them—

HM.
ring ring
Having to hold people is—


TOILET
WHY AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME?
I'LL JUST IGNORE IT...
THAT'S RIGHT SHE'S THE GIRL WHO CALLED OUT ANOTHER GUY'S NAME IN THE MIDDLE OF DOING IT
MADOKA... OH, DIDN'T I GO OUT WITH HER FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS?


"MADOKA."
A TEXT?
"PLEASE MEET WITH ME ONE MORE TIME."

E-EXCUSE ME
WHAT?
DIDN'T YOU NEED TO USE THE TOILET?
N...NO THE MEETING WITH THE SALES DIRECTOR...
OH, IT'S YOU, NAITOU-KUN.
SFX: WATER RUNNING
ISN'T IT OKAY FOR ME TO USE THE TOILET WHEN I WANT TO?
N-NO, I MEAN, I SHOULD BE GOING...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WE'RE BOTH MEN, AREN'T WE?
slam
smirk
EXCUSE ME.

—hold me
Somebody
Hah
Some-body
Hah
Ooh
Hold me—
Ah
Aaah
Uuh!
Ah
Ah
jerk
Ooh
SFX TWICH TWITCH

I—

Why am I doing this?

Am I frustrated?

Sex hasn't been satisfying recently

All these women are so boring

Why can't I find someone I'm crazy about?

Someone I—

UM.

EXCUSE ME, BUT I'M LOST—

UGH—
WE'RE HERE, SIR
HUH? IS THIS MY CONDO?
SFX. SQUEAL
HUH? SOMEONE PUT ME IN A TAXI?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT THAT WOMAN APPROACHED ME FOR HELP.
AND I ENDED UP DRINKING TOO MUCH.
—BUT IN THE END I'M GOING HOME ALONE.
ding
stagger stagger
CRASH
DAMN. I DRANK TOO MUCH
I WONDER IF I'LL BE OKAY IN THE MORNING?
Hiccup
puke puke
HUH?
thud thud thud
SFX. GRAB

SFX: BAM
WA... OOOF!
SFX: DRAG
A— A mugger?
I'm being killed... for my money. I guess it's fate.
I'm afraid.
I'm drunk and terrified! my body won't move.
SFX: SLAM
What? Why'd he throw me on the bed...
SFX: WRAP
SFX: SHOVE
I can't move.
Did he just intend to break into my room—
HMPH
ZZZZZ

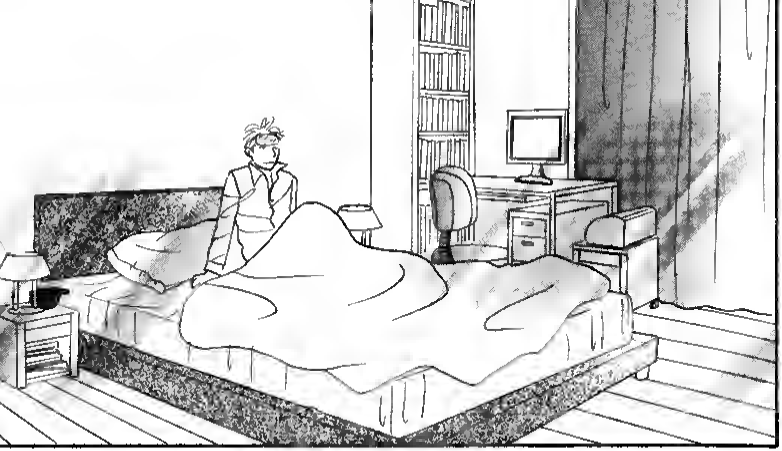
WHA—?
THAT'S HOW MADOKA FELT, TOO
ARE YOU SCARED?
WHO...? YOU SAID SOMETHING...
ABOUT MADOKA?
YOU GOT HER DRUNK,
AND YOU TOOK HER TO HER ROOM AND RAPED HER
SHUT UP IT'S TOO LATE FOR ANY OF YOUR EXCUSES
I'M GOING TO DO TO YOU WHAT YOU DID TO MADOKA.
SFX: PUSH
STOP! IT H—
IT HURTS!
THAT WAS... WHOA!
ST-STOP THAT!
HEH! SO YOU'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN THAT TEXT YOU IGNORED?
IF YOU'RE SAYING MADOKA...
W— WAIT... I NEVER DID THAT KIND OF THING...
SFX: TOSS

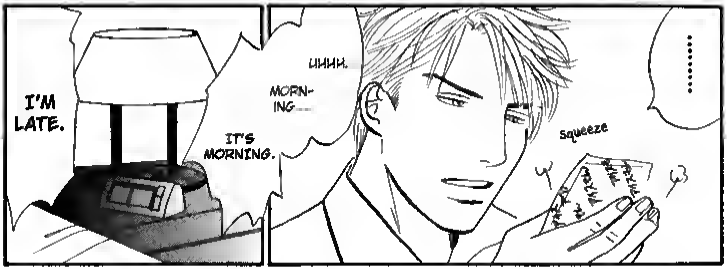
I'LL MAKE THIS GUY'S PERVERTED BODY...
...AL— ALL RIGHT! SOMEHOW I'VE GOT A HARD ON.
I-I DIDN'T START OUT LIFE AS A RAPIST, SO I WASN'T SURE I WOULD.
RATHER THAN EMBARRASSING, IT'S... AAAAH! HIS FINGER! AAAAAH!
.....
IT HURTS!
TAKE IT OUT!
TAKE IT OUT ...!
IT'S REALLY SERIOUSLY HURTING NOW!
MMPH
SHUT UP! I'M RAPING YOU, YOU BASTARD!
ホッ
ス
—this is cruel
(SFX: PRESS)

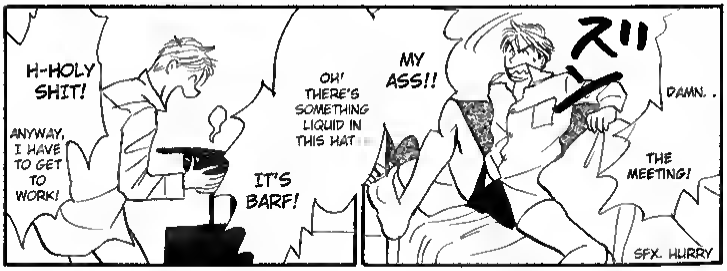
Is this what they call being embraced?
I'm being embraced by a man.
What was he talking about, being embraced?
What a strange man.
Ha, ha, ha.
Why do I have to experience something like this?
It's too cruel.
I'm being made to look like a dead frog.
With his dick pushing in and out of my ass
Being embraced for God's sake.
What kind of thing is that?
What an idiotic noise he's making.
HA.
Have you done this kind of thing?
Having this kind of thing done to me by the boss—
HAHA..
HA
HIC..

ARGH!!
IT'S CREEPY WHEN YOU YELL LIKE THAT. NOW I'VE GONE SOFT...
WAH.
WAH. I'M GOING TO THROW UP!
STOP, STOP!!
WHY THE HELL ARE YOU CRYING? I HAVE NO PITY FOR YOU. YOU'RE A BASTARD. ARE YOU EVEN A MAN?
YOU'RE EVIL. YOU'RE GETTING WHAT YOU DESERVE.
SECTION CHIEF!
HIC...
HEY!
WAH...
UWAH...
BOSS!
SEC-TION CHIEF...
FOR NOW I'VE DONE WHAT I CAME FOR. I'M GOING HOME
IT'S ALL WELL TO SAY "NICE CATCH,"
BUT HE PUKED IN MY HAT.
DAMN, THIS WOMAN IS MORE THAN JUST A LITTLE DRUNK.
OOH
WOW, NICE CATCH!
ZNAH
RORRRF
SFX SWOOP
On the contrary...
mumble mumble
SECTION CHIEF...

He would hold me and embrace me
Surely he would gently caress me
He wouldn't put me in such a shameful position
On the contrary
the boss wouldn't do that kind of thing
I'm just a conveniently loyal subordinate
I'm just dreaming.
He has a wife and kids
I know the boss isn't a fag
Ha ha ha who am I fooling?
gently tend to me—
Like in a dream
the way he would—
Section Chief...?
No—
His huge hand
So warm




I'M LATE.
IT'S MORNING.
UHHH. MORN-ING—
squeeze
.....


H-HOLY SHIT!
ANYWAY, I HAVE TO GET TO WORK!
IT'S BARF!
OH! THERE'S SOMETHING LIQUID IN THIS HAT...
MY ASS!!
ズリ
DAMN. . THE MEETING!
SFX. HURRY

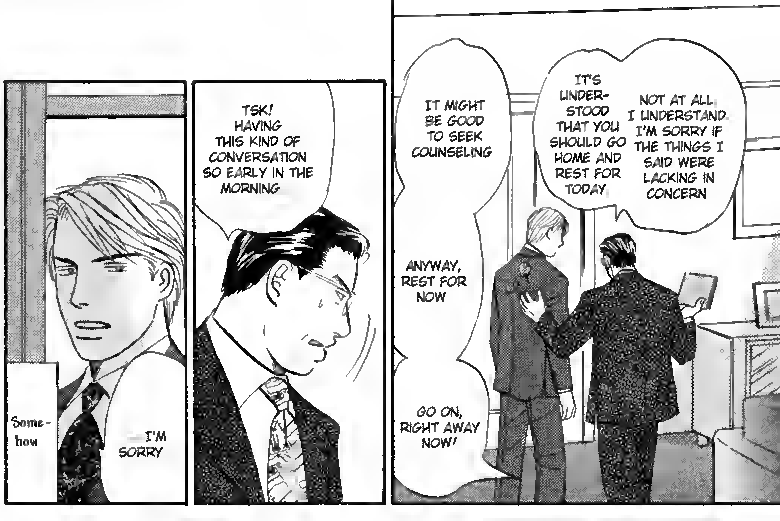
IS IT BECAUSE—

LUCKILY, YOUR SUBORDINATES WERE ABLE TO OUTLINE THE PLANNED STRATEGY TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR AND THE PRESIDENT, BUT—
I CAN SMELL ALCOHOL ON YOUR BREATH; TO COME TO THE MEETING SMELLING LIKE THAT, WOULD HAVE CAUSED A LOT OF TROUBLE
QUITE FRANKLY
.....
IS IT A HANG-OVER?
—YOU'RE UNWELL?
Y-YES THERE'S NO EXCUSE
AND I FORGOT TO CALL IN AGAIN.
IT MIGHT BE BETTER FOR YOU TO GO BACK.
IT'S POSSIBLE I'VE OVER-ESTIMATED YOU.
WELL, THEN. I HAVE TO REFLECT ON YOUR SITUATION
I'M DIS-APPOINTED.

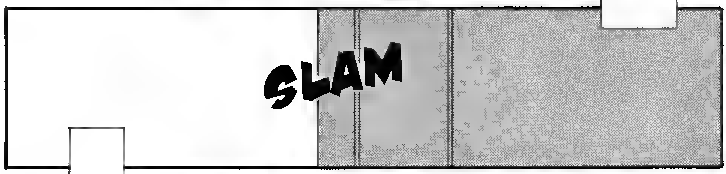
WHY AREN'T YOU GOING BACK TO WORK?
WHAT IS IT?
UH—UM— THE TRUTH IS...
THE TRUTH IS...
LAST NIGHT, I...
WAS RAPED...
BY A MAN.

I WAS RAPED
MY HANDS WERE BOUND AND THEN...
I WAS TAKEN INTO MY ROOM...
IN MY ENTRYWAY, SUDDENLY A MAN CAME OUT AND PINNED MY ARMS BEHIND ME
I—I WENT OUT WITH SOMEONE AND ENDED UP DRINKING TOO MUCH, AND WHEN I CAME HOME...
IT'S THE TRUTH...
...YOU'RE JOKING...
NO... WELL... HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...
ONLY— ONLY MY PRIVATE PARTS
ANY INJURIES?
NO... HE WAS A COMPLETE STRANGER.
DID YOU KNOW THE MAN?
N-NO, I DON'T THINK SO...
ANYTHING STOLEN?
.....

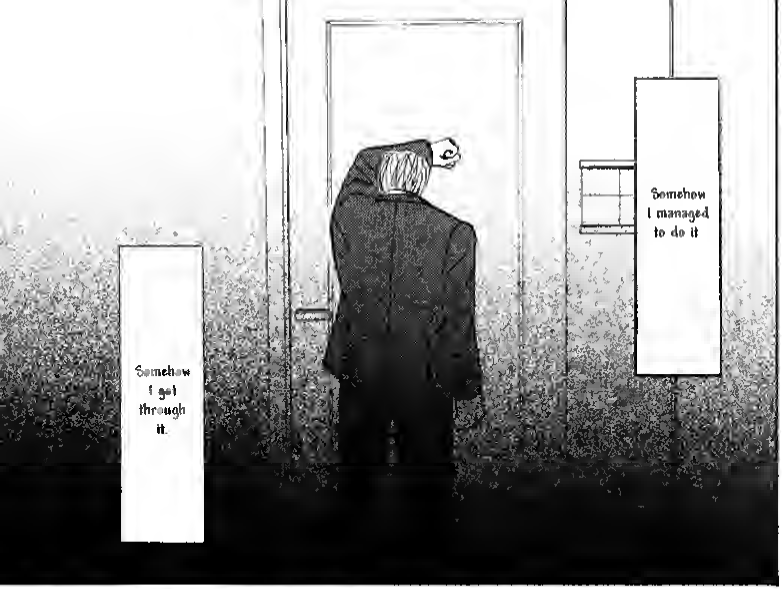
SFX SCRAPE
ガーン
—WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
N-NO THAT'S—
WHY DON'T YOU GO TO THE POLICE?
WELL, TO THE HOSPITAL THEN.
GO TO THE HOSPITAL! I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THIS!
IF YOU WERE A WOMAN WELL.. ANYWAY..
OF COURSE!
U-UM, BOSS
WHAT!?
IT WAS A HUGE SHOCK ER..
YOU'RE EXCUSED FOR MISSING THE MEETING. NOW GO BACK TO WORK!
I WON'T TELL A SOUL. I DON'T EVEN WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT. I'M JUST GOING TO FORGET ABOUT IT. YOU FORGET ABOUT IT TOO, AND GET BACK TO WORK!
TH...
TO RECEIVE SUCH WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT...
THIS...
KINDNESS...
.....
93 close


Some-how
I'M SORRY
TSK! HAVING THIS KIND OF CONVERSATION SO EARLY IN THE MORNING
IT MIGHT BE GOOD TO SEEK COUNSELING
ANYWAY, REST FOR NOW
GO ON, RIGHT AWAY NOW!
IT'S UNDER-STOOD THAT YOU SHOULD GO HOME AND REST FOR TODAY
NOT AT ALL. I UNDERSTAND. I'M SORRY IF THE THINGS I SAID WERE LACKING IN CONCERN

Somehow I'm getting through it


SLAM

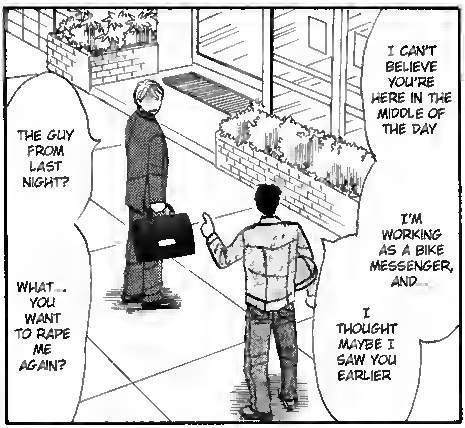
Some-how I did it

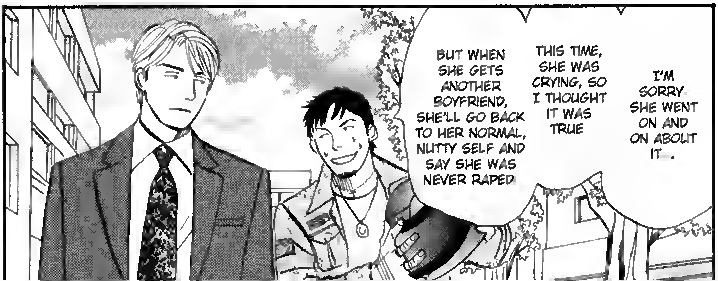

Somehow I managed to do it
Somehow I got through it.

HEY

IS YOUR ... ASS OKAY?
...ERR...

LAST NIGHT... LISTENING TO MADOKA...
THE TRUTH IS... N.. NO BUT ABOUT THAT BUSINESS...


I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY
I'M WORKING AS A BIKE MESSENGER, AND...
I THOUGHT MAYBE I SAW YOU EARLIER
THE GUY FROM LAST NIGHT?
WHAT... YOU WANT TO RAPE ME AGAIN?


BUT WHEN SHE GETS ANOTHER BOYFRIEND, SHE'LL GO BACK TO HER NORMAL, NUTTY SELF AND SAY SHE WAS NEVER RAPED
THIS TIME, SHE WAS CRYING, SO I THOUGHT IT WAS TRUE
I'M SORRY SHE WENT ON AND ON ABOUT IT...

MY LITTLE SISTER IS AN IDIOT. STILL, I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK SHE'S ADORABLE
ANYWAY, IT'S YOUR FAULT. SHE WAS ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT YOU, BUT FOR SOME REASON, YOU WERE COLD AND SELFISH
SO, YOU DIDN'T COME TO RAPE ME TODAY.
I'M RELIEVED—I'D RATHER NOT FEEL THAT KIND OF PAIN AGAIN
HEY, I SAID I WAS SORRY.
SO, DID YOU MAYBE CALL THE POLICE...?
IF I'D BEEN A WOMAN...
NAH, I'M GAY. I DON'T RAPE WOMEN
HOWEVER, IF I'D BEEN A WOMAN, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OKAY.
...WHEN ARE YOU FINISHED WITH WORK?

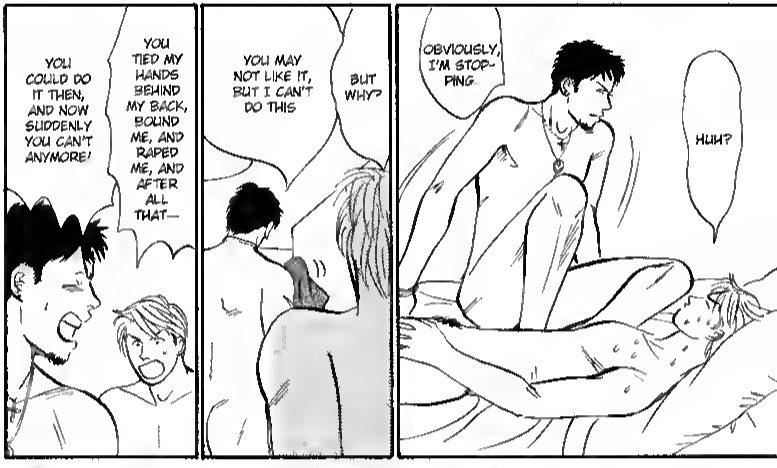
WHERE DO I PUT IT?
YOU DESPITE BEING A RAPIST, YOU'RE STRANGELY OBLIGING, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS?
YOU WENT OUT WITH A WOMAN WITH THE SAME LAST NAME!
THAT CRAP'S FROM LAST NIGHT! I'M GOING TO GET RID OF IT
WHOA! IT'S BARF!
HM LOOK HERE, THIS HAT IS FAMILIAR, AND THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE IN IT.
SO, YOU SKIPPED THE MEETING AFTER ALL
OKAY...
MIYOSHI
IT'S MIYOSHI
THAT'S RIGHT MIYOSHI-KUN
I REALLY AM A HEARTLESS MAN
THAT'S TRUE
BUT I DON'T REMEMBER IT
PLEASE RAPE ME AGAIN

BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE STRAIGHT
SO DID I.
HMPH IS THAT RIGHT? IS THAT RIGHT?
BUT MY BOSS IS A MAN.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
MAYBE YOU'VE BECOME DESPERATE BECAUSE OF YOUR UNREQUITED LOVE FOR YOUR BOSS?
A WOMAN BOSS HAS TO BE PRETTY TOUGH TO MEASURE UP, I BET

I GOT IT INTO MY HEAD THAT HE'S MY IDEAL MAN
THAT OLD GUY...
BEING NEAR HIM ALL THIS TIME
...BUT,
MAYBE ALL ALONG I'VE WANTED
TO BE FUCKED BY A MAN

I'VE GOT TO GET OVER HIM
I WANT TO FEEL LIKE THAT OLD GUY DOESN'T MATTER
I'M BEGGING YOU
YOU'RE YOUNGER AND BETTER LOOKING THAN HE IS

slide
creak
Ah
Stop


YOU COULD DO IT THEN, AND NOW SUDDENLY YOU CAN'T ANYMORE!
YOU TIED MY HANDS BEHIND MY BACK, BOUND ME, AND RAPED ME, AND AFTER ALL THAT—
YOU MAY NOT LIKE IT, BUT I CAN'T DO THIS
BUT WHY?
OBVIOUSLY, I'M STOP-PING
HUH?

DON'T LUMP ME TOGETHER WITH YOU!! JUST BECAUSE I'M GAY DOESN'T MEAN I CAN CASUALLY SCREW JUST ANYONE!
YOU LYING HOMO!
WELL, UUHH, I DON'T LIKE IT IF IT ISN'T LOVE FROM THE START

A GAY—
WA—
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO A GAY BAR.
HM?
WHAT?
WELL— I TOLD YOU I WAS SORRY FOR RAPING YOU.
CALM DOWN!
FI-FIRST COME BACK TO YOUR ROOM.
LET GO. I'VE GOTTA GO TO WORK TOMORROW.
A GAY BAR?
I'VE SEEN THEM ON THE NEWS.
OR I COULD GO TO THE PARK
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT SUCH PLACES?
HUH?
GRAB
HM?
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I CRIED, YOU STILL ENTERED ME.
SFX: YANK

IS THIS THE GUY?

SECTION CHIEF?

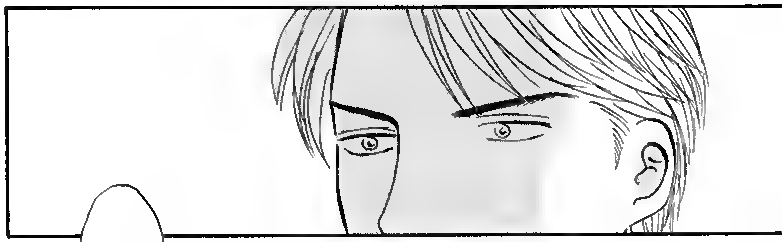
I'M VERY SORRY.
Y...
YES...
WHO RAPED NAITOU ?
YOU?
YOU'RE THE MAN....
HA...

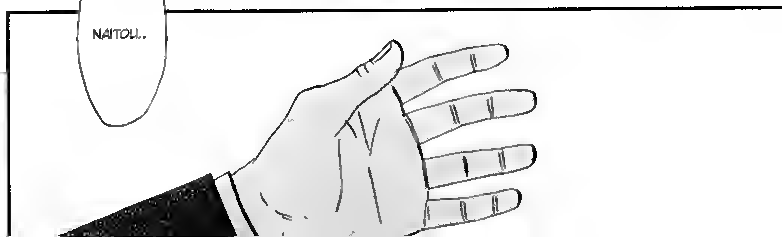
SFX ANGRY
RUN, NAITOU!
HURRY UP AND GO CALL THE POLICE!
WAIT, WAIT...
SECTION CHIEF!
SECTION CHIEF!
HE'S GONNA KILL ME!
I'M TELLING YOU, HE'S GONNA KILL ME.
SFX PISSED
SEC-TION CHIEF!
WHOA!
SECTION CHIEF, PLEASE STOP!
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK—
THERE'S BEEN A MISUNDER-STANDING!
THIS GUY IS—
THIS GUY IS NOT A BAD PERSON
AND I'M OBVIOUSLY FINE!
SINCE THIS MORNING'S MEETING WE'VE PROPERLY—

HMPH!
clink.
.....
IF YOU CAUSE ANY MORE TROUBLE...
YES SIR! NO EXCUSES!
HAVE I MADE MYSELF CLEAR, NAITOU?
YES SIR!
YE
YES?
NAITOU
THERE'S NO PROBLEM?
THAT'S RIGHT
WILL YOU BE COMING TO THE MEETING?
YES SIR.
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT TO WORK?
YES
WE'LL BE DISCUSSING THE REVISIONS TO THE SALES STRATEGY PLAN
OF-OF COURSE I'LL STUDY IT DILIGENTLY!
SFX: STOMP

I—
LOVE MY WIFE
MY SON IS IN THE MIDDLE OF STUDYING FOR HIS ENTRANCE EXAMS, AND MY DAUGHTER IS STILL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL
I WON'T LET ANYONE DESTROY THE THINGS MOST IMPORTANT TO ME
..SO,
PLEASE DON'T DESTROY THEM

I'M RELYING ON YOU, NAITOU
I DON'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE ALL BY MYSELF.




NAITOU..

HMPH.
Y—
YES SIR!
vigorous
IF YOU ARE LATE NEXT TIME, CONSIDER HOW IT WILL AFFECT YOUR EVALUATION.
OKAY?
NEXT TIME—

SFX SLAM

YEAH
THAT MAN WAS— YOUR BOSS?

I REALLY, REALLY LOVED HIM.
MAYBE HE WAS THE GREATEST LOVE OF MY ENTIRE LIFE UP UNTIL NOW.
THAT'S RIGHT...
THAT MAN WAS MY BOSS.
MY IDEAL PERSON...
YEAH—
DID YOU NOTICE? STUBBORN AND COURAGEOUS—
...AND KIND AND ATTRACT-IVE...
AH, IT'S NOT UNREA-SONABLE THAT YOU FELL IN LOVE
HE'S A GOOD MAN
THAT... THAT'S TRUE IT WASN'T UNREASON-ABLE FOR ME TO FALL IN LOVE

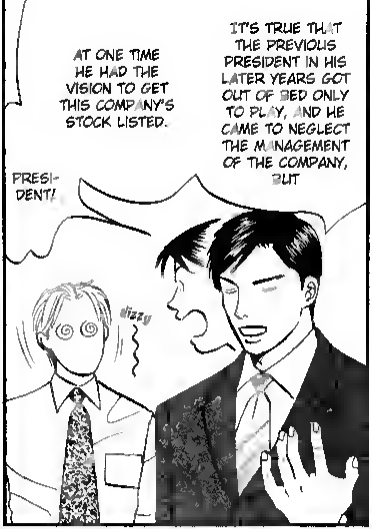
I... REALLY LOVED MY BOSS.
BUT HE REJECTED ME.
I'M GLAD I FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM
《END》

My Boss, My Secretary

FOR GOD'S SAKE, HOW LONG WILL THAT IDIOT SON CONTINUE ACTING LIKE A PART-TIMER?
IS HE ALREADY HERE OR NOT?
HELLO? IS THAT YOU, PRESIDENT?
PRESIDENT?
OH, EXCUSE ME, MR. PART-TIME SWEEPER
HAVE YOU SEEN THE PRESIDENT?
BUT KOMINAMI-SAN,
OUR PRESIDENT DIED LAST YEAR
YES, THAT'S RIGHT. LAST YEAR, AT THE AGE OF 80, HE DIED FROM A JELLYFISH STING AT THE MIDWINTER COMMEMORATIVE SWIM MEET.

*T/N: Matsunaga mixes a couple of expressions here. He combines "gaku," or "learning" with "ooki sa o kuraberu" or "to compare sizes"
THAT'S WHAT THIS BOOK, "HOW TO BE A GOOD BOSS," SAID. "WITH CLEANING TASKS, YOU CAN MEASURE YOUR LEARNINGOLOGY!"*
SHOULDN'T YOU STUDY THAT IN YOUR TIME OFF, RATHER THAN AT THE OFFICE?
AND THAT'S WHY YOU, HIS SON AND SUCCESSOR, HAVE TAKEN HIS PLACE, IT SEEMS, PRESIDENT MATSUNAGA!
OH... YOU'RE RIGHT
WHY ON EARTH ARE YOU SWEEPING?
...N-NOT AT ALL. IN ANY CASE, WE'VE BEEN ON THE VERGE OF BANKRUPTCY FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS. IT'S NOT ALL YOUR FAULT
I'M NOTHING BUT TROUBLE TO YOU, MY SECRETARY.
THERE'S NO EXCUSE...
wilt
IT WILL BE ON ACCOUNT OF YOUR SPENDING TIME ON SUCH ABSURDITIES!
IF WE CAN'T MEET OUR OBLIGATIONS AND END UP GOING BANKRUPT,

LET'S JUST SAY THAT FOR AN ADULT, YOUR STAMINA LEAVES SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED.
I'M SORRY. EVER SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, I INVARIABLY FAINT IN THE MIDDLE OF MORNING MEETING--
Floor 7


AT ONE TIME HE HAD THE VISION TO GET THIS COMPANY'S STOCK LISTED.
IT'S TRUE THAT THE PREVIOUS PRESIDENT IN HIS LATER YEARS GOT OUT OF BED ONLY TO PLAY, AND HE CAME TO NEGLECT THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPANY, BUT
PRESIDENT!
dizzy

OH, YES! THAT'S WHY I CAME TO FIND THE PRESIDENT!
ABOUT THE MATTER OF MY VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT

KOMINAMI-SAN, YOU'VE BECOME SO STRONG!
DID YOU PLAY SPORTS IN SCHOOL?
BASKET-BALL .. UH, PRESI-DENT?
A LITTLE, I SUP-POSE.

EXCUSE ME FOR INTER-RUPTING YOUR FLIRTATION, BUT--
FEELING WHAT?
PLEASE DON'T MESS AROUND LIKE THAT!
ARE YOU FEELING IT?
stroke stroke

SIGN, PRESIDENT
社長
WHAT?
SURELY YOU'RE NOT TURNING IN YOUR RESIGNATION?
BUT UP UNTIL NOW YOU'VE POURED YOUR LIFE'S BLOOD INTO THE COMPANY!
THAT'S WHY HE'S WORKING AS HARD AS HE CAN FOR THE COMPANY RIGHT NOW!
I UNDERSTAND, KOMINAMI-SAN.
I DOUBT THE AMOUNT OF MONEY ON THE PAPERWORK IS ENOUGH
...RATHER, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE SINCE THE PREVIOUS PRESIDENT'S TIME. YOU HAVE BEEN DEVOTED TO THIS COMPANY TO THE VERY LAST.
THANK YOU; WITH THREE CHILDREN, EXPENSES ARE HIGH.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, NAKATA-SAN.
I'M GLAD YOU WERE ABLE TO FIND A GOOD JOB
PRESIDENT.
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK
THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO SPEAK FOR MY FATHER...

WHOA!
YOU'RE QUITTING?
STARE
RIGHT AFTER THE PRESIDENT DIED, I INTENDED TO RESIGN AS WELL, BUT...
IT SEEMS LIKE THE PREVIOUS PRESIDENT AND HIS WIFE RAISED THEIR SON WELL.
HOW KIND HE WAS IN THERE...
HAVING SAID THAT, HE'S NOT MUCH OF A PRESIDENT.
THAT KIND OF SEVERANCE PAYMENT ISN'T FOR A RESIGNATION
DID YOU REALLY SAY YOU WERE QUITTING?
ARE THERE SEVERANCE PAYMENTS--?
DON'T JUST FEEL FREE TO TOUCH IT, PLEASE!
OH, PLEASE, DON'T LET ME DISTURB YOU. GO AHEAD AND FINISH.
WH-WHAT IS IT? WHAT?
OTHER THAN THE KIND FOR QUITTING...?

I'M NOT QUITTING.
IT WAS A BONUS FOR ASSISTING THE PREVIOUS PRESIDENT.
I WILL DEFINITELY NOT ALLOW THIS COMPANY TO GO BANKRUPT.
THANK YOU.
grab
LITTLE KOMINAMI!?
I'LL BE OUT IN A SECOND.
WHAT DO YOU NEED IN HERE?
I JUST WANT TO HELP YOU HOLD "LITTLE KOMINAMI."
I CAN HOLD IT PERFECTLY FINE MYSELF!
DON'T SAY STRANGE THINGS, PLEASE, AND DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO TOUCH IT?
WITHOUT YOU, KOMINAMI-SAN, I'D BE SAD AND LONELY.
MISTER, I'VE BEEN WAITING HERE TO CLEAN.
EITHER DO WHAT YOU NEED TO DO OR GET OUT.
HUH? DID I JUST SOUND KIND OF GAY THERE?
AHH, HE'S BECOME ATTACHED TO ME
IT'S KIND OF CUTE.
...SHIT.

OH!
THE WEATHER IS NICE OUT.
UH... PRESI-DENT?
YEESS?
WE'RE GOING TO THE TAKEBUTSU COMPANY TO DEMAND PAYMENT, SO PLEASE DON'T GRIN LIKE THAT.
IS THAT RIGHT? BUT IT FEELS LIKE A DATE!
THIS PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED SOON OR THE COMPANY WILL DEFINITELY GO BANKRUPT. WHA--WHAT IS IT?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT. I HAVE TO PRACTICE MAKING A SCARY FACE.
THEY'LL THINK YOU'RE JOKING, SO HURRY UP AND WIPE IT OFF.
TSK
HEY
surprise
OH EXCUSE ME!
UH-- PRESIDENT! PRESIDENT, LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU
YOU SHOULD BE MORE CARE-FUL
AH.. NO, I'M...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
DO THE COMPANIES HERE HAVE SUCH CUTE EMPLOYEES?

IT WOULD BE A PLEASURE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH MY SERVICES.
OH, REALLY?
PRESIDENT!
I'M IN THE MONEYLENDING BUSINESS. PERHAPS YOU WOULD DO ME THE HONOR OF DOING BUSINESS WITH ME.
I MEAN, EXCUSE ME PLEASE.
WHAT? THAT'S TOO BAD
EXCUSE ME. WE ARE CLIENTS OF THIS COMPANY.
I GUESS THAT'S THE WAY THE COOKIE CRUMBLES
IF WE DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT, WE'D DEFINITELY BE BANKRUPTED!
WELL, THAT'S A PITY. HE COULD HELP US GET OUR PAYMENT TOGETHER
THIS KIND OF MONEYLENDING COMPANY IS A FLY-BY-NIGHT OPERATION, AND IT'S DANGEROUS DOING BUSINESS WITH THEM!
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF THESE COMPANIES?

THE TAKE-BUTSU COMPANY DIRECTOR HAS...
AB-SCOND-ED...?
THE MANAGER TOOK ALL OF THE CASH AND IS MISSING.
HE WAS A ONE-MAN SHOW, SO NOT ONLY THE EMPLOYEES BUT THE EXECUTIVE STAFF ARE ALSO RUNNING AROUND HELPLESSLY.
AND MONEY FOR THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE?
WE'RE CLEAN-ED OUT.
fall
WE'RE BANK-RUPT.
THIS IS IT...
OUR CORPORATE COUNSEL?
.....
YES?
CONTACT HIM IMMEDI-ATELY.

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
WE'VE BEEN ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL. THE PAST TWO TO THREE YEARS' EARNINGS WON'T COVER THEIR SALARIES.
I'LL LIQUIDATE MY ASSETS.
KOMINAMI-SAN.
CALL THE HEAD OF ACCOUNTING AND THE GENERAL MANAGER.
PAYING THE EMPLOYEES.
UM, IN CASES LIKE THIS, WHAT YOU'VE GOT TO CONSIDER FIRST IS...
BUT SOONER OR LATER IF THIS COMES TO PASS, MY FATHER TAUGHT ME
... I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT IN THIS SITUATION, MY FATHER WOULD HAVE ALREADY MORTGAGED OUR HOME.
THAT WHATEVER ELSE I DID, OF ALL THE EMPLOYEES, I SHOULD EXPLAIN THINGS TO KOMINAMI-SAN.
Y-YES SIR.
AND CALL THE BANK
GET THE FILE ON THE LATEST ASSETS STATUS

LET'S BE PRACTICAL HERE.
DON'T TOUCH ME! I DIDN'T MEAN...
DON'T BE SO STUB-BORN
WELL, IT WAS LUCKY THE EMPLOYEES TOOK IT MORE CALMLY THAN I EXPECTED.
EVEN SO, TO PAY THEM ALL---
WELL, THAT'S FINE. WHEN YOU'RE TROUBLED, I'LL HELP YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE? LET GO OF THE PRESIDENT!
HOW UNEX-PECTED!
I WAS GOING TO HELP THIS GUY OUT BECAUSE I HEARD HE WAS HAVING SOME TROUBLES.

NO. THIS COMPANY IS ON ITS WAY OUT, AND IT'S NOT TAKING ALL OF YOU WITH IT.
AS WELL AS COULD BE EXPECTED. EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE PREPARED.
EVERYONE SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR THEIR NEXT JOB... INCLUDING YOU.
I'VE GOTTEN THEM TO ACCEPT A REDUCTION IN SALARY.
...HE PROBABLY WON'T DO ANYTHING.
THAT LECHEROUS GEEZER HAS DEFINITELY GOT HIS EYE ON YOU.
HOW IS IT GOING WITH THE EMPLOYEES?
EVERYONE SHOULD STAY CALM. TRY TO GET THEM TO LISTEN TO WHAT YOU SAY. FATHER PLACED SUCH IMPORTANCE ON OUR EMPLOYEES
BUT THEY SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM IF THEY CAN.
NOT ALL OF OUR EMPLOYEES MAY HAVE SUCH PERSONAL CONTACTS.
DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WORKING FOR FORMER CLIENTS?
DO YOU WANT TO CONTINUE WORKING IN THIS INDUSTRY?
OR WORK WITH FORMER COLLEAGUES FROM WHEN YOU WERE A SUBCONTRACTOR?
AND YOU.. HOW ARE YOU DOING?
OF COURSE.
THANK YOU FOR RELYING ON ME.
SINCE I...
...GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL, I'VE WORKED WITH MANY DIFFERENT PEOPLE, BUT .

...AND THEN
TEN MIL-LION...
mumble mumble

WAIT, PLEASE, PRESIDENT.

AND WHERE WOULD YOU BE GOING?
TO RAISE SOME MONEY...
YOU WOULDN'T BE GOING TO THAT LECHEROUS MONEY-LENDER'S, WOULD YOU?
NOT AT ALL.
THEN, WHY DID YOU KISS ME?

SFX: GRAB
...IT'S THE ONLY WAY THIS NO-MANAGEMENT-ABILITY IDIOT-SON KNOWS.
EVEN THOUGH MY FATHER ENTRUSTED THIS WORK TO ME, EVEN GIVING MY ALL, I CANNOT DO IT.
SO, YOU'RE GOING TO SELL YOURSELF TO THAT GEEZER IN ORDER TO PAY THE EMPLOYEES' SALARIES?
I ONLY AGREED TO SELL MY BODY...
SO YOU DID AGREE. THAT OLD LECHER IS GOING TO--
IF THAT WAS TRUE, WOULD I BE THIS CALM?
I'M NOT CALM AT ALL!
I WON'T STAND FOR IT!
YOU'RE GOING TO... WITH THAT GEEZER--
AH!
I... I!

SFX: THUMP
IF YOU'RE GOING TO LET THAT GUY DO WHATEVER HE LIKES WITH YOU, THEN I'LL...
KOMI-NAMI-SAN, IT'S NOT...
I'LL...
CALM DOWN!
AH...!
OW!
N-NO.
I CAN'T! I'M NOT GOING TO SLEEP WITH YOU!
SOME-THING'S WRONG HERE.
I MEAN, HOW CAN I SLEEP WITH A MAN?

YOU'RE MAKING ME THINK I'M IMPORTANT TO YOU...
EXCUSE ME A MOMENT. MY FEELINGS RIGHT NOW ARE...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN LET ME MAKE LOVE TO YOU, PLEASE.
THAT'S-- THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
I CAN'T, BECAUSE I'M WORRIED ABOUT THAT GUY
HUH?
LET ME MAKE LOVE TO YOU.
I WAS STRUCK WITH YOU THE VERY FIRST TIME I SAW YOU

SFX. KERTHUNK
WHOA
SO CUTE! ♡♡
AH, YOU'RE LOOKING PUZZLED.
WHEN YOU BECOME THE SECRETARY, YOU SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESIDENT, ISN'T THAT SO?
EH?
EH?
EH EH EH EH EH EH EH EH EH?
I WAS GOING TO GO BE EMBRACED BY THAT OLD MAN, BUT
SO VIOLENT!
WAI-WAI-WAIT, PLEASE!
I DON'T HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE BEING MADE LOVE TO
GETTING TO EMBRACE YOU IS SO MUCH BETTER.
BESIDES, WHERE DID YOU GET THIS KIND OF STRENGTH, PRESIDENT?
AND BESIDES, OBVIOUSLY, I'M A MAN, AND IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
B-BUT, UM, I REALLY HAVE NO EXPERIENCE..
TH-THAT'S TRUE, I GUESS

IT'S OKAY...
MY CUTE SECRETARY...
SO LOYAL AND SO EARNEST...
RUNNING AROUND FOR THE SAKE OF THE COMPANY, YOU WERE SO CUTE AND LOVABLE...
I DON'T WANT TO SCARE THAT CUTE YOU...
I WON'T DO ANYTHING TO HURT YOU...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
PRESIDENT...
ME TOO.
I'VE WATCHED YOU DOING YOUR BEST...
PRESIDENT...
.....

.....
PRESI-
DENT
HAH
AH...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
AH...
SCURRY
SCURRY
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU CAN COME IN MY MOUTH
THAT'S NOT IT..
UM.. PRESI-
DENT..

INSTEAD OF THAT... PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT, WAIT, WAIT, WAIT! LISTEN TO WHAT I'M SAYING!
IT'S OKAY IF YOU DO THINGS THAT HURT.
DON'T GO TO THAT OLD MAN'S PLACE, PLEASE
WITH MY SAVINGS..
WITH THE MONEY YOU BORROW FROM THE OLD GUY— THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR THE EMPLOYEES' SALARIES.
...AGREED
THANK YOU
.....
...PRESIDENT.
...AH.

OOH
KOMI-NAMI-SA...
FEELS GOOD...
I'M COMING ...!
SFX: GRAZE
SFX: TREMBLE TREMBLE
SFX: TWITCH TWITCH
SFX: DRIP
...PRESI-DENT...
.....

サァ
SFX: COMFY
THANK YOU.
BUT...
I'M STILL THE PRESIDENT, SO

SFX: SITS UP.
AND THEY'RE FOR THE FULL AMOUNT!
THEY'RE DISTRIBUTING PAYCHECKS!
OUR PAYCHECKS!
IN THIS DIFFICULT STATE OF AFFAIRS, YOU MANAGED TO GET US OUR PAY.
QUITE FRANKLY, I'D GIVEN UP ON IT ALREADY.
OH, KOMINAMI-SAN, THANK YOU SO MUCH!
IT'S- IT'S ALREADY LATE MORNING.
DID I SLEEP THIS WHOLE TIME?
PRESIDENT...!!

STILL...
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T WANT TO BE MADE LOVE TO BY THAT OLD GUY...
MAYBE I CAN GET OUT OF IT SOME-HOW.
IF YOU DO THINGS THAT HURT.
"IT'S OKAY."
BUSINESS DISTRICT NATTO SHOP
lovey dovey
TO BE TOLD SUCH CUTE THINGS!!
HERE'S WHERE I FALL IN LOVE ALL OVER AGAIN WITH THIS MAN!
SPLASH
OH!
I'M SORRY! I WAS THROWING THE WATER OUT, BUT INSTEAD I THREW OUT THE NATTO BY MISTAKE.
LOOKS LIKE I HAD THE WRONG sticky BUCKET.
NO PROBLEM! THAT SORT OF THING HAPPENS A LOT
IT'S OKAY, I LIKE NATTO!
Natto ONLY Bucket

KNOCK KNOCK
EXCUSE ME
PRESIDENT MATSU-NAGA?
YES
PLEASE COME IN. CAN YOU CONFIRM THE DELIVERY OF THE PAYMENT?
YES THANKS TO YOU I WAS ABLE TO DISTRIBUTE THE EMPLOYEES' PAYCHECKS.
SIGN: ZENDA LOANS
IF...
WE UN-DERSTAND EACH OTHER...
SFX: SLOW TURN
YES. I'VE COME TO MAKE LOVE.
WHOA! YOU SMELL LIKE NATTO!

I'VE PREPARED MYSELF AS A MAN MUST.
すい
HIGH. DON'T COME ANY CLOSER. I HATE NATTO.
YOU, THAT'S UNFAIR!
THERE'S NOTHING UNFAIR ABOUT IT
SFX: STRAIGHTFORWARD
すい
BUT I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO USE A CONDOM.
A BLOWJOB WOULD BE EASIEST.
I SAID DON'T COME NEAR ME!
CAN I EVEN FUCK A BODY THAT SMELLS LIKE THAT?
YOU CHANGED THE RULES. GIVE ME BACK MY MONEY RIGHT NOW.
NO, BECAUSE I'M GIVING YOU MY BODY, JUST LIKE I PROMISED.
WHO-WHO WOULD WANT TO STRIP AND--
PLUNGE INTO SOMETHING THAT SMELLS LIKE A TUNA BOAT? GIVE ME BACK MY MONEY.

SFX: AT A RUN
WHAT ARE YOU--?
OUT OF MY WAY!
WHERE IS THAT PRESIDENT?
OR I SHOULD SAY, THAT EXCESSIVELY NATTO-SMELLING GUY?
WHAT'S THIS DISTURBANCE NOW?
OH, IT'S YOU!
FEBREEZE WON'T DO THE TRICK. THIS IS MUCH BETTER!
GIVE ME BACK THE PRESIDENT. WHERE DID YOU PUT HIM? YOU BASTARD, I'LL NEVER LET YOU RAPE THE PRESIDENT!
RAPE THAT NATTO?
MY MONEY WENT FISHING FOR TUNA!
RIGHT ABOUT NOW IT SHOULD BE IN THE SEA OF OKHOTSK!

PRESIDENT ...!
OKHOTSK .?
AAAAAAH ...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT AT A TIME LIKE THIS HE WOULD GO SO FAR AS TO SEND ME OUT HERE TO FREEZE...
YOU'RE YOUNG, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE WEIRD...
DID YOU SAY YOU USED TO BE A COMPANY PRESIDENT?
YES, AT ONE TIME.
HERE, THAT KIND OF TITLE WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD.
YOU CAN FEEL LIKE A PRESIDENT ALL YOU LIKE, IT WON'T MAKE A BIT OF DIFFERENCE
HERE, YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR MAGNIFICENT OFFICE BUILDING OR YOUR BENZ.
BUT I DON'T NEED THOSE SORTS OF THINGS..
scree scree
PAT
I DON'T NEED THOSE SORTS OF THINGS..
REALLY
IT'S TRUE
.....
...AS LONG AS I HAVE MY SECRETARY
EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT...
AS LONG AS I HAVE MY SECRETARY WITH ME

AS LONG AS I HAVE MY SECRETARY WITH ME.
I DON'T NEED ANYTHING ELSE.

SCREE
SCREE
PRESIDENT, LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE NO BEGINNER.
THIS WAY, IF WE BOTH WORK, THE LOAN WILL BE REPAID FASTER.
WELL, WHEN YOUR SECRETARY GETS HIS SEA LEGS, THEN WE'LL BE TALKING.
H-HOW FAR IS IT TO LAND?
END

Land of Pleasure

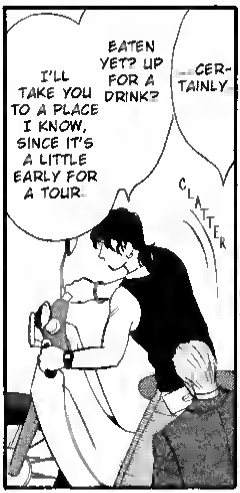
...20.
21.
VROOM
RUMBLE
PUTT
PUTT
PUTT
ROAR
IT'S 22 MINUTES SINCE...
...THE AGREED-UPON TIME.
BRM
BRM
BRM

SCREECH
WHOA
SCREECH
IS HE BEG-GING?
WH-WHAT?
VROOM
--ARE YOU
AMANO-SAN?

...EXCUSE ME, BUT DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO VERIFY WHO YOU ARE?

THE NAME'S TANAKA, I'M AN INTERPRETER AND TOUR GUIDE.
SORRY.
I THOUGHT I'D GET HERE FASTER
I'M AT YOUR SERVICE FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS
I FORGOT THEY TOLD ME TODAY'S CLIENT WAS JAPANESE

SOMEONE FROM OUR BRANCH OFFICE MUST HAVE ASKED FOR IT.
--I DIDN'T ORDER ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
I'M HERE ON BUSINESS.


EATEN YET? UP FOR A DRINK?
...CERTAINLY.
I'LL TAKE YOU TO A PLACE I KNOW, SINCE IT'S A LITTLE EARLY FOR A TOUR.
CLATTER

OKAY. IT'S GOOD THAT YOU'RE CAUTIOUS.
OTHERWISE YOU MIGHT GET THAT FANCY SUIT ALL DIRTY.
HERE'S MY LICENSE.

bam
MY PREVIOUS APPOINTMENT WAS PRETTY FAR FROM HERE AND IT TOOK--
HEY, DRIVE!
AT ANY RATE EVEN IF IT WAS FAR AWAY, DON'T YOU HAVE A WATCH OR SOMETHING? KIND OF SLIPSHOD, IF YOU ASK ME.
THEN LET'S GET MOVING!

YOU'RE 23 MINUTES LATE FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT TIME
I CUT IT REALLY CLOSE; I'M SORRY.
YES, YES I'M LISTENING, I'M LISTENING.
THE NEIGHBORHOOD IS GETTING A LOT OF ATTENTION FROM MANUFACTURERS
THERE ARE A LOT OF FACTORIES BEING CONSIDERED FOR CONSTRUCTION IN THIS AREA--

...I'VE HEARD OF JAPANESE QUITTING THEIR JOBS AND GOING INTO BUSINESS FOR THEMSELVES, BUT...

...WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND ABOUT MY INTERPRETATION SERVICES?

...GOING INTO BUSINESS?
I'VE DONE THAT ABOUT 20 TIMES...
SHALL I TELL YOU MY LIFE STORY?
BUT TWO MINUTES HAVE GONE BY-- WE'D BETTER GO.

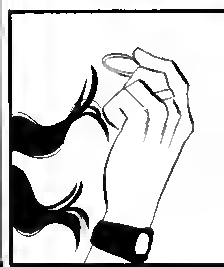
THIS BIKE IS GETTING WORSE AND WORSE.
AMANO-SAN, YOU'RE NOT GETTING TOO SHAKEN UP, ARE YOU?
vroom
COUGH! KAFF! COUGH!
NOT SURPRISINGLY, THIS AREA AROUND THE AIRPORT HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL...
putt
putt
putt
putt
putt
I'M ALLERGIC TO HOUSE DUST. THE DUST IS HORRIBLE.
I SHOULD BUY A MASK
JUST BE PATIENT FOR HALF A DAY, AND YOUR NOSE HAIRS WILL GROW.
DON'T THEY SELL HELMETS HERE?
NAH, JUST MAKE SURE YOU FALL ON YOUR ASS
YOU SHOULD HAVE LOOKED
I CAN'T HEAR YOU IF YOU DON'T SPEAK UP!
YOU SHOULD HAVE COMPLAINED! BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING, I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE GETTING SICK THERE BEHIND ME!

HEY! I WANT TO SEE THE STOCK PRICES. CAN I CONNECT TO THE INTERNET?
OUR CONNECTION ONLY WORKS EVERY OTHER DAY.
WELL, IT CAN WAIT.
THIS FACTORY MANAGER HERE GOT A BIT DIZZY WHILE FISHING, SO UNTIL I TAKE HIM HOME...
YOU HAVE ONE MORE INTERPRETATION APPOINTMENT AT 3:00.
WOW, THAT'S A REALLY HIGH-END CAMERA...
HEY! HOLD ON THERE! GATHERING AROUND LIKE BEGGARS--
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
IS THERE NO OTHER WAY THAT I COULD GET ACCESS AROUND HERE?
-Huh,?
WE'RE NOT BEGGARS.
WE PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER
IS IT ALL RIGHT IF THEY LOOK, PLEASE?
THEY'RE VERY SHARP-EYED ABOUT THINGS THAT CAN MAKE MONEY.
ISN'T THAT SO?

WELL ...
LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO SLEEP HERE.
crunch crunch
IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR YOU TO MAKE THOSE YOUR MEAL?
IF ONLY TO TAKE THE EDGE OFF.
SOMEPLACE LIKE THIS WHERE THERE'S NOT MUCH TO EAT, I HAVE TO MAKE DO.

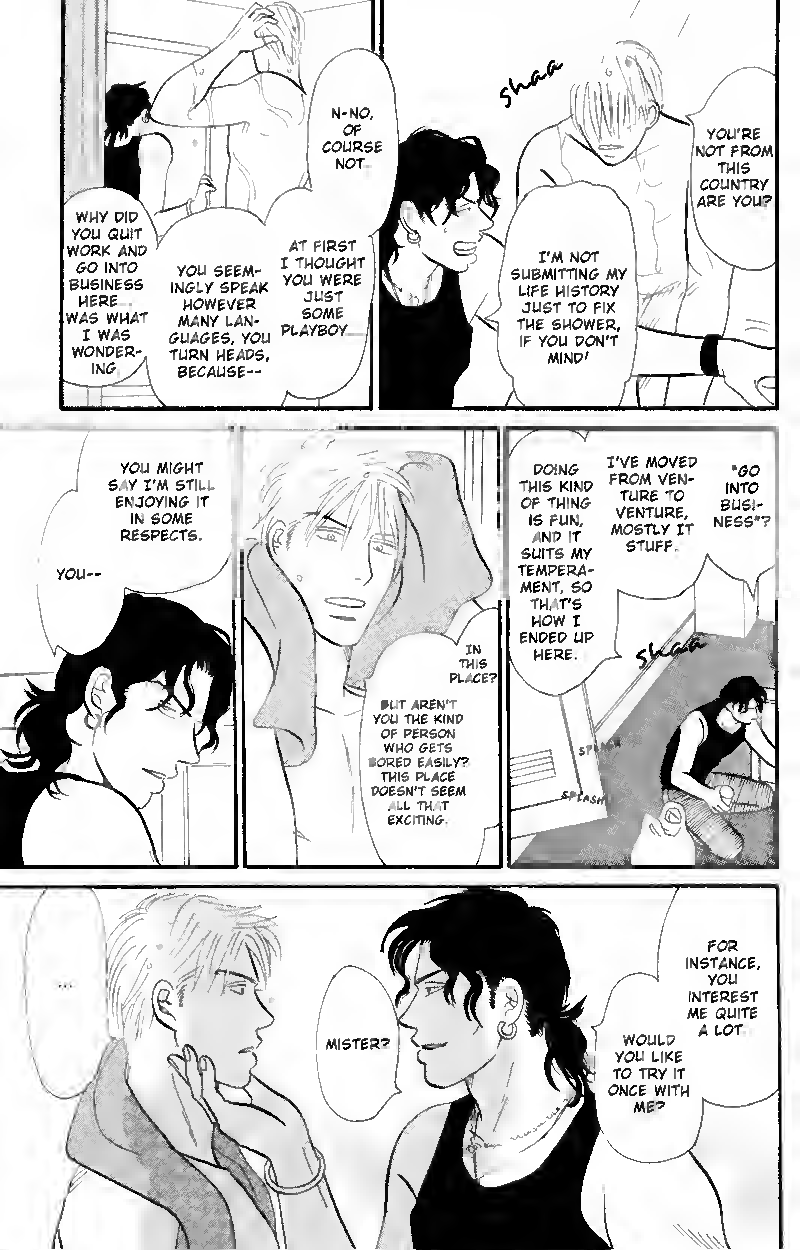
I SERVICE YOU, MR. CUSTOMER?
WHAT IF--

WHILE WE'RE WAITING TO GO OUT...



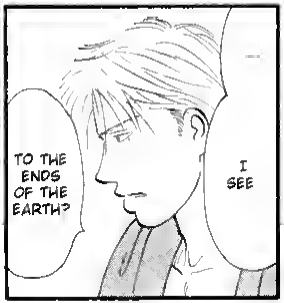
WHAT?
UH...
CLOSE
TSK I'VE HAD EXTRA INCOME LATELY, SO A MEAL IS OKAY...
UH, NO-- IT WAS A JOKE, JUST A JOKE FORGET ABOUT IT
WHY DON'T I TAKE YOU OUT FOR A MEAL, BUT FIRST TAKE A SHOWER
THE HOT WATER IS..
UH... GLASSES, GLASSES...
click
HUH?
AND I CAN'T BELIEVE THE GUYS FROM THE BRANCH OFFICE WOULD MIX WORK WITH A DUBIOUS JOKE LIKE THAT.
NO THEY DON'T KNOW THAT ABOUT ME.
OH NO.
MAYBE HE'S GAY
"SER-VICE"?
shaa

Whoa!
Whoa!
WE SHOULD CALL THE FRONT DESK.
...THE HOT WATER RAN OUT.
THIS HAS GOTTEN LOOSE, AND I GOTTA TIGHTEN IT UP.
...LOOKS LIKE I GOTTA TURN THE STOPCOCK A LITTLE.
YOU'RE...
THE FRONT DESK? RIGHT NOW IT'S JUST JAI-SAN, AND HE'S ASLEEP.
YOU'RE GOING TO FIX IT?
DON'T HANG ON ME!
AND COVER UP, WHY DON'T YOU?

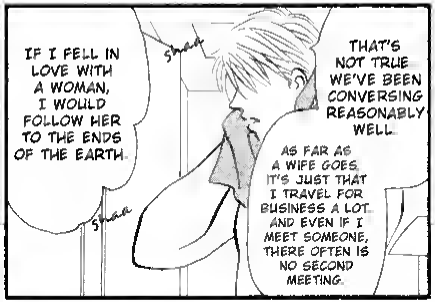

WHY DID YOU QUIT WORK AND GO INTO BUSINESS HERE... WAS WHAT I WAS WONDERING.
YOU SEEMINGLY SPEAK HOWEVER MANY LANGUAGES, YOU TURN HEADS, BECAUSE--
AT FIRST I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST SOME PLAYBOY.
N-NO, OF COURSE NOT.
Shaa
I'M NOT SUBMITTING MY LIFE HISTORY JUST TO FIX THE SHOWER, IF YOU DON'T MIND!
YOU'RE NOT FROM THIS COUNTRY ARE YOU?
YOU MIGHT SAY I'M STILL ENJOYING IT IN SOME RESPECTS.
YOU--
BUT AREN'T YOU THE KIND OF PERSON WHO GETS BORED EASILY? THIS PLACE DOESN'T SEEM ALL THAT EXCITING.
IN THIS PLACE?
DOING THIS KIND OF THING IS FUN, AND IT SUITS MY TEMPERAMENT, SO THAT'S HOW I ENDED UP HERE.
I'VE MOVED FROM VENTURE TO VENTURE, MOSTLY IT STUFF.
"GO INTO BUSINESS"?
Shaa
SPLASH
SPLASH
...
MISTER?
FOR INSTANCE, YOU INTEREST ME QUITE A LOT.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY IT ONCE WITH ME?

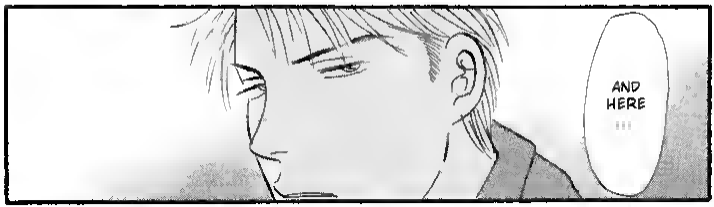
A WIFE?
...
I'M NOT MARRIED.
IS THAT SO?
SEEING ME WET DIDN'T GET YOU AROUSED. YOU MUST BE MADE OF STONE.

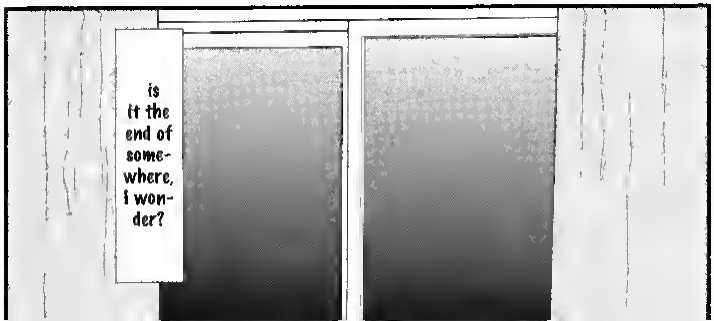
AT LEAST IT WOULDN'T BE AS BORING AS SEX WITH YOUR WIFE!
DON'T LOOK AT ME AS IF I'M SOME KIND OF FREAK!



I SEE
TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH?


IF I FELL IN LOVE WITH A WOMAN, I WOULD FOLLOW HER TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.
THAT'S NOT TRUE WE'VE BEEN CONVERSING REASONABLY WELL.
AS FAR AS A WIFE GOES, IT'S JUST THAT I TRAVEL FOR BUSINESS A LOT. AND EVEN IF I MEET SOMEONE, THERE OFTEN IS NO SECOND MEETING.


AND HERE
...


is it the end of somewhere, I wonder?

HAVE YOU GOTTEN BORED?
YOU SAY THAT BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T REALLY GOTTEN TO SEE THIS PLACE.
CRIME IS INCREASING HERE.
NOT AT ALL.
MAYBE IF I LIVED IN THE CAPITAL
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE CARE-LESS ABOUT TIME, THE PEOPLE HERE ARE WEL-COMING
IT'S A POOR NEIGHBOR-HOOD, BUT YOU HAVE ELECTRICITY.
I'D LIKE TO, BUT TONIGHT I'M MEETING UP WITH SOME PEOPLE FROM THE MAIN OFFICE.
YOU READY FOR YOUR GUIDED TOUR OF THE NIGHT SPOTS?
IT'S THE SAME WAY IN JAPAN THESE DAYS.
IF YOU GO INTO A BACK ALLEY, YOU'LL HAVE EVERYTHING YOU OWN TAKEN FROM YOU

LOOK AT IT COMING DOWN.
MAYBE YOUR COLLEAGUES ARE STUCK AT THE AIRPORT
WHEN THE RAIN IS HEAVY LIKE THIS, THE TOWN GETS COMPLETELY CUT OFF
THE CELL PHONE RECEPTION IS BAD IN THE RAIN TOO..
OF ALL THINGS, TO BE STUCK IN THIS PLACE...
OKAY
TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T HURRY HOME
--I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY.
LET'S TAKE THAT TOUR
OF THE NIGHT SPOTS.
STRONG LIQUOR INCLUDED

IT SEEMS LIKE A WHOLE-SOME ENOUGH PLACE...
WELL, THIS IS THE ONLY BAR IN THIS NEIGHBOR-HOOD.
WE DON'T HAVE TO STAY IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT.
AROUND HERE, YOU CAN'T RELY ON THE FACT THAT YOU'RE NOT A GIRL.
I'M NOT A GIRL.
DON'T WANDER OFF BY YOUR-SELF.
NO WAY
THE WATER HERE IS WARM
I WAS IN THE SWIMMING CLUB FROM HIGH SCHOOL UNTIL UNIVER-SITY.
Tweet!
Whistle!
Shriek
IS THIS A DISCO OR A CLUB?
WHAT? DANCE?
IN EXCHANGE FOR DRINKS, I HAVE TO ENTERTAIN THE GIRLS.
EXCUSE ME, I'M GOING TO DANCE FOR A LITTLE.

HUH!
HE'S GOOD.
The girls must be very happy with him.
That type certainly is sexy.
He's a very attractive man.

From the beginning, since we met--
I thought he was not Japanese but a local-- no, a foreigner of mixed blood.
An exotic, dark face.
Muscle and bone.
Is the alcohol already getting me drunk?
Or maybe I'm getting drunk off the foreign atmosphere--
tap tap
HM?

drag
drag
WHAT? HAVE I DONE SOMETHING?
HAVE I ANNOYED SOMEONE...?
stic forceful
NOW THEN..
AT LAST I CAN GET A DRINK!
WHAT? HE'S NOT HERE.
WHERE'S THE JAPANESE GUY THAT WAS HERE?
WHERE DID HE GO?
DID YOU SEE HIM WITH ANYONE?
SHIT! THAT IDIOT!
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HIM, IT'LL BE ON ME!
WHERE IS HE--?

.....
Calm down.
If I make noise, I'll be killed.
I won't resist.
In any case I'll stay quiet, and they'll steal something, and
I can't overcome the two of them by myself.
if fate wills it, someone will come and help me.
Fate...
They'll take my belongings, and
if fate wills it...
shi! ham

ドス
STOP ...
WHAT THE HELL...
AH!
YOU FUCKERS!
sfx: fall
If you resist, you'll be killed.
... Don't.

He's probably seeing something he's never seen in his life.
Isn't he aware that I can see his feelings in those deep eyes?
Why does he have to see me?
Aah! This man--
Stay quiet and--
I wonder if I should sue for being seen in this deeperate situation.
Beautifully deep, dark pupils.
Those eyes as they watch me being raped.
Unblinking.

Under this foreign rain from the night sky...
...RE
...
HEY--
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NO WAY

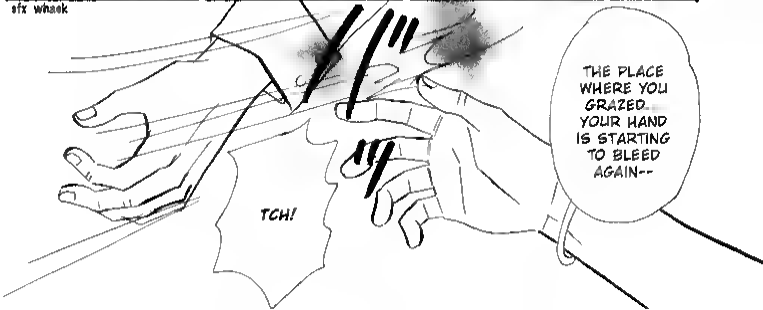
I'M SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN YOU TO THAT KIND OF PLACE.
--IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. BESIDES, WE WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO COME OUT OF IT ALIVE!
I DEFINITELY THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO BE KILLED...
...CAN YOU RIDE BEHIND ME ON THE BIKE TO THE HOTEL?
YES, THAT'S FINE... LET'S GO.
STAND UP.
I was raped.
As he watched.

WHAT --?
WELL, DID EVERYONE ARRIVE HERE FINALLY?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ESTIMATE AND THE CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE IS SETTLED
HURRY AND GO BACK HOME
SO THESE TWO DAYS HAVE BEEN A WASTE OF TIME?
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T LIKE HOW THEY APPROACHED IT
EITHER WAY, AS I THOUGHT, CONSTRUCTION IN THIS REGION WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT
EVEN THOUGH YOUR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN POINTLESS,
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE UP?
THIS IS ALSO WORK...
SO LET'S GET GOING.
--DOES IT HURT?
OF--
OF COURSE IT DOES!
HOW WAS WHAT HE DID TO ME SUPPOSED TO MAKE ME FEEL GOOD?
AH... SORRY I'M FINE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN
...IT'S JUST THAT THIS HAS BEEN A MAJOR SHOCK...
--YOUR SENSE OF BEING ABLE TO PROTECT YOURSELF HAS RECEIVED A BLOW.

...NO. IF I HAD A SHOCK LIKE THAT IN JAPAN, I MIGHT STAY IN BED.
BUT I'M NOT REALLY SURPRISED THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENED HERE. I HAD A FEELING ABOUT IT.
TO THINK OF MYSELF AS THE OBJECT OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT-- CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE IT.
SO THIS KIND OF THING ISN'T FAMILIAR TO YOU, IS IT?
IF I WAS RAPED BY THAT BASTARD...
IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS.
Dust and garbage...
I'M GOING TO BE SORRY TO LEAVE HERE.
BUT THERE ISN'T ANY SIGHTSEEING TO DO HERE
IT'S A TOWN FULL OF DUST AND GARBAGE.
LETTING ME GO OUT WHEREVER I WANT TO.
I WONDER IF THE COMPANY APPROVES THE EXTENT TO WHICH I'VE DONE SO--
I'VE TAKEN IN THE NIGHT LIFE IN MANY DIFFERENT PLACES.
His skin and his scent...
His hair from the back...
His--

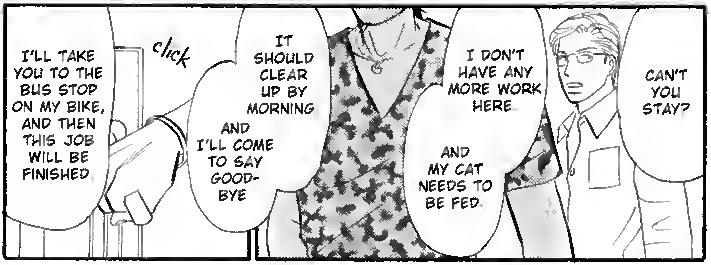
THAT SHIT BORES ME TO DEATH!
READING RIGHT NOW I'M EN-GROSSED IN A HISTORICAL NOVEL
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO DO ANYTHING BESIDES WORK? DO YOU HAVE ANY HOBBIES?

*T/N Traditional Japanese dance performed at the annual Bon festival held in summer to honor ancestors

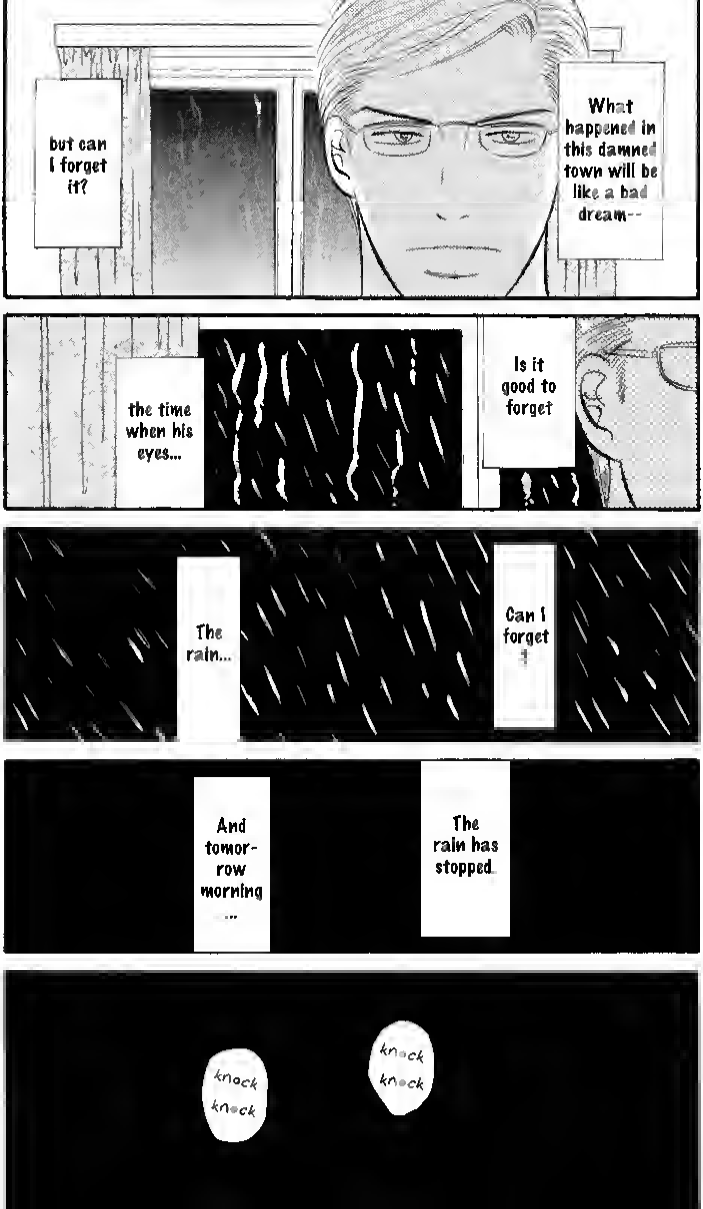


I--
I'LL GET IT CHECKED OUT
IT'S BETTER IF YOU DON'T COME IN CONTACT WITH MY BLOOD.
THEY DIDN'T PUT A BANDAGE OR ANYTHING ON IT.
I DON'T HAVE ANY OPEN CUTS ON MY HAND,
SO IT'S OKAY IF I TOUCH YOU.
..DO YOU THINK SO?

--I HAVE TO GO.
... AFTER YOU STOP THE BLEEDING, EAT UP, BECAUSE
AFTER ...


I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE BUS STOP ON MY BIKE, AND THEN THIS JOB WILL BE FINISHED
click
IT SHOULD CLEAR UP BY MORNING AND I'LL COME TO SAY GOOD-BYE
I DON'T HAVE ANY MORE WORK HERE. AND MY CAT NEEDS TO BE FED.
CAN'T YOU STAY?

CLOSE
WELL--
WHAT HAPPENED IN THIS DAMNED TOWN WILL JUST BE LIKE A BAD DREAM
IT'S ALL RIGHT IF YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT IT,


What happened in this damned town will be like a bad dream--
but can I forget it?
Is it good to forget
the time when his eyes...
Can I forget ?
The rain...
The rain has stopped.
And tomorrow morning ...
knock knock
knock knock

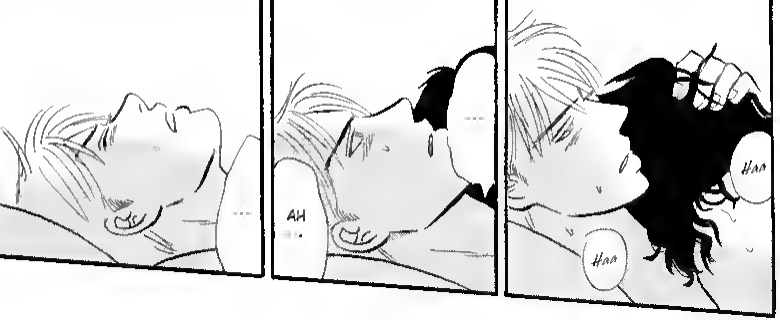
HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
I WOKE UP THE OLD GUY AT THE FRONT DESK AND MADE HIM GIVE ME A RIDE.
I GAVE HIM A PILE OF MONEY TO DO IT, EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T WANT TO.
GUESS I'VE RUINED THE JAPANESE REPUTATION HERE.

WHAT'D YOU COME FOR?
OF COURSE SO YOU CAN TEACH ME TO DANCE
...YOUR DANCE.
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?
...I'M SOAKING WET ON YOUR DOORSTEP
IF DRYING ME OFF DOES NOT GET YOU EXCITED, THEN YOU'RE MADE OF STONE.
YOU WANT ME TO... DO THE SAME THING THOSE GUYS DID TO YOU...?
I'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN THEIR FACES.
REMEMBERING IS--

DAMN. THIS IS A TOUGH ASSIGNMENT YOU'RE GIVING ME
IT'S GOING TO FEEL LIKE I'M RAPING YOU LIKE THOSE BAS-TARDS DID
NO, IT WON'T ...
YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM THEM.
BUT IT'S THE SAME..
IT WILL SEEM LIKE I'M RAPING YOU...
...I UNDER-STAND.

shaa
shaa
IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS TOWN'S ATMOSPHERE...
IT'S BECAUSE OF THE RAIN...
...
shaa
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU ...
IT'S BECAUSE OF THOSE EYES YOU WERE WATCHING ME WITH...
BUT YOU'RE WRONG ...
I CAME HERE OF MY OWN WILL.
shaa
Haa
shaa
Haa
...DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
I WANT TO HAVE SEX.
IT'S OKAY.
... BUT IT'LL HURT.
DON'T YOU WANT TO?
...PUT IT IN.
LET ME PUT A CONDOM ON...
I'M ALREADY...

...IT'S NOT MY FAULT..
...
AH!
TCH!
GOOD
...IT'S BECAUSE YOU CAME HERE
IT'S THEIR FAULT!
IT'S THE RAIN'S FAULT!
IT HURTS.
sfx flinch flinch
MM!
MM!
Shaa
IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU'LL FORGET SOON.
WHEN THE RAIN STOPS
WHEN YOU LEAVE THIS TOWN.
Shaa
SO JUST ENDURE IT A LITTLE.
JUST A LITTLE MORE
AND MORE...
Shaa
Shaa
AH...
ビクン
ビクン


AH.
Haa
Haa

AHHHH!
AH.
Haa
Haa

IT'S OKAY.
IT'S OKAY IF I USE MY OWN HAND.
AH.
IT'S FINE, I'LL DO IT MYSELF.

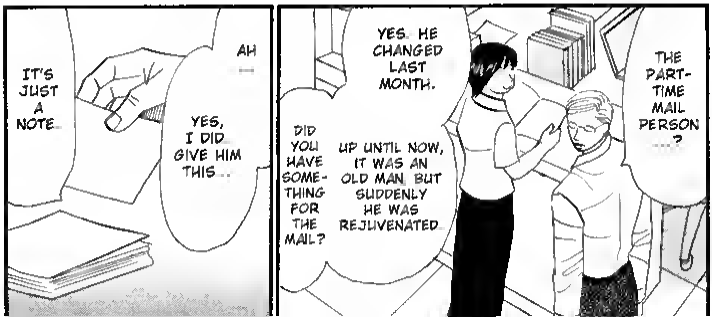
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SKY...
IT'S ONLY THIS BEAUTIFUL AFTER IT RAINS.

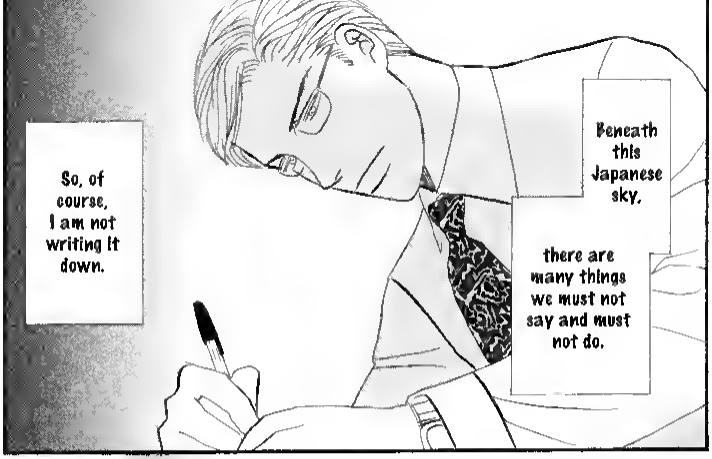
WHY DON'T YOU COME TO JAPAN?
BECAUSE I GOT TIRED OF JAPAN A LONG TIME AGO.
BUT MAYBE YOU CAN GO THERE FOR FUN SOME-TIMES.
NAH
FORGET ABOUT THE RAPE...
AND YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
--That's what i was already thinking.

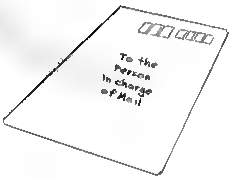
I didn't think I could ever do that.
JUST FORGET ABOUT ME
Why didn't I tell him that?
--That is, of course.
sfx slam
カタン

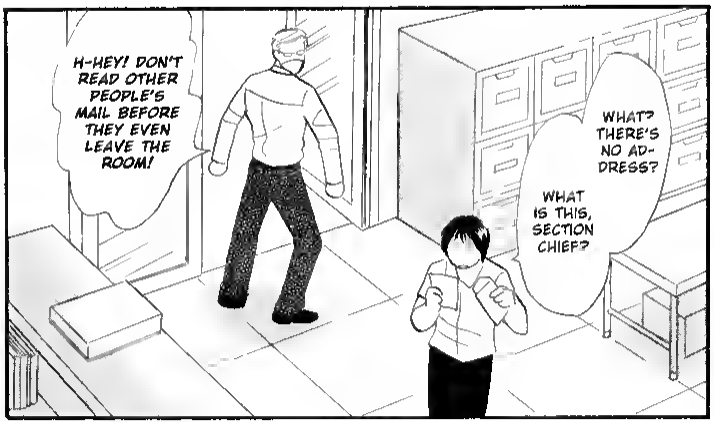
HEY,
WHERE IS THAT CHART?
OH-- SOMEONE TOOK IT
SHALL WE BORROW ONE FROM DEPART-MENT TWO?
NO-- NEXT TIME YOU GO TO BUSINESS AFFAIRS, ARRANGE FOR A RECEIPT--
ARE YOU GOING SOME-WHERE?
ISN'T THAT MY BUSI-NESS?
It is, of course ...
i didn't say anything about seeing him
to go see him again.
OOPS, SORRY!
bam
OOF!
IT'S- IT'S OKAY.

EX-CUSE ME...
THE MAN WHO WAS JUST LEAVING HERE...
OH-- DID THE MAIL ALREADY GO OUT?
IT WAS JUST THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE MAIL
HE ALREADY CAME BY ONCE THIS AFTERNOON, SO IT'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE NEXT ONE, IF YOU DON'T MIND...


THE PART-TIME MAIL PERSON...?
YES. HE CHANGED LAST MONTH.
UP UNTIL NOW, IT WAS AN OLD MAN, BUT SUDDENLY HE WAS REJUVENATED.
DID YOU HAVE SOME-THING FOR THE MAIL?
AH...
YES, I DID GIVE HIM THIS...
IT'S JUST A NOTE...


Beneath this Japanese sky,
there are many things we must not say and must not do.
So, of course, I am not writing it down.


To the Person in charge of Mail


H-HEY! DON'T READ OTHER PEOPLE'S MAIL BEFORE THEY EVEN LEAVE THE ROOM!
WHAT? THERE'S NO ADDRESS?
WHAT IS THIS, SECTION CHIEF?

END

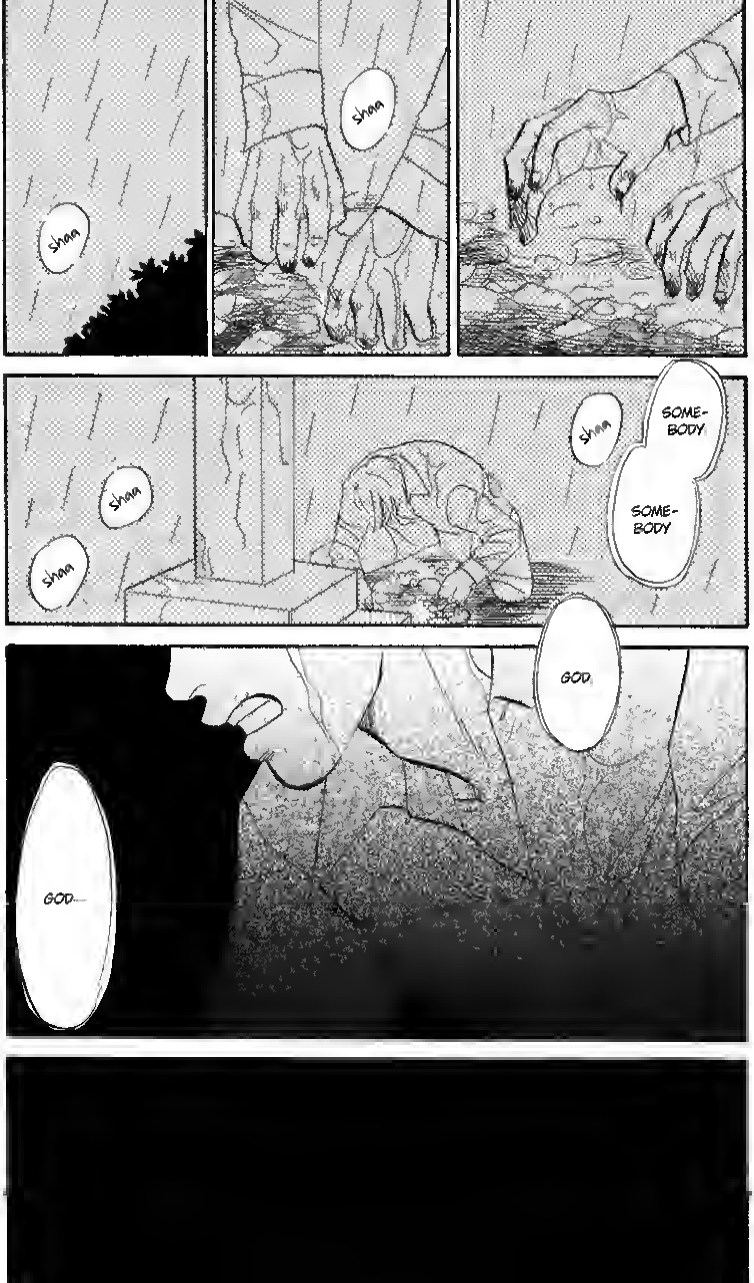
The Supplicant

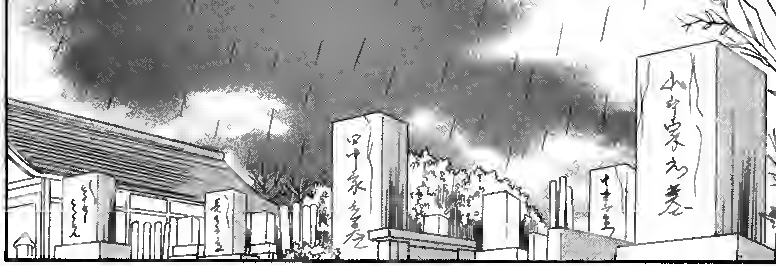
shaa
shaa
shaa*
*SFX FOR RAIN

shaa
shaa

shaa
shaa

SOME-
BODY...
shaa
Hah.
Hah.
Hah.
Hah.
shaa
shaa


Shan
Shan
Shan
Shan
Shan
SOME-BODY
SOME-BODY
GOD
GOD



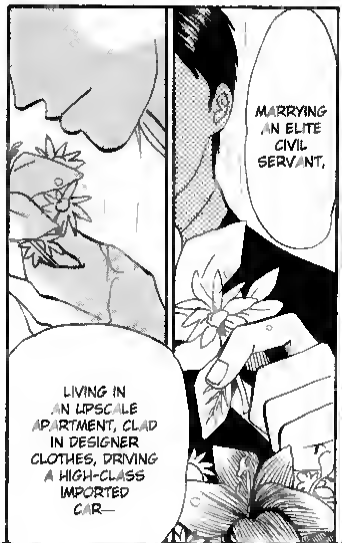
TOMO-YUKI-SAN

MY MOTHER IS ALWAYS MORE LIVELY THAN NECESSARY,
I'M SORRY FOR IMPOSING SO MUCH ON YOU.
APART FROM THIS WEATHER, THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HER DEATH SEEMS TO BE GOING SMOOTHLY, DOESN'T IT...?
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. EVERYTHING BUT DINNER IS OVER ANYWAY.
BUT NOW OF ALL TIMES SHE HAS TO CATCH THE FLU...
Achoo!
TOMO-YUKI-SAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU MUST BE TIRED.
AH, MOTHER.* HELLO SORRY FOR LEAVING THE SERVICE.
*T/N: He's using "Mother" but it is written with the characters for mother-in-law.

ON GRAVE HONJOU FAMILY
THERE!
IF YOU FALL ILL TODAY IT WILL INTERFERE WITH YOUR WORK.
STILL I'LL STAY HERE A LITTLE BIT LONGER
WHEN THE CAR COMES, I'LL SEE IT FROM HERE.
ARE YOU WATCHING OVER MEGUMI?
SINCE I DON'T KNOW HOW OFTEN I'LL BE ABLE TO COME HERE IN THE FUTURE—
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT! YOU STILL HAVE LIFE AHEAD OF YOU.
SFX: SPLASH SPLASH
OH!
IS THE ANNIVER-SARY MEMORIAL SERVICE ALREADY OVER?

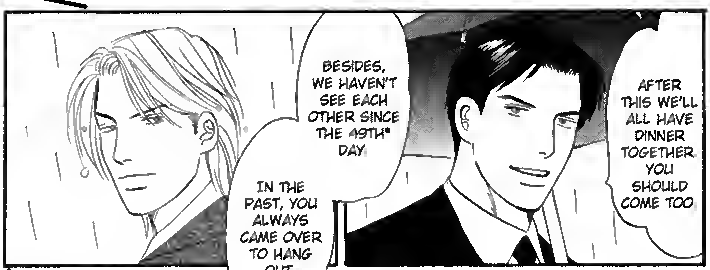
SUCH FLASHY FLOWERS AGAIN...!
YEAH, I WAS SURE YOU'D COME.
RIGHT, HON-JOU-SAN?

AKIHIKO! YOU'RE UNBELIEV-ABLE.
WHY ARE YOU SHOWING UP ONLY NOW? NOT ATTENDING YOUR OWN SISTER'S ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL SERVICE— UNBELIEV-ABLE!
I MADE IT, DIDN'T I? WHAT'S IMPOR-TANT IS THAT YOU MAKE AN OFFERING ON THE ANNIVER-SARY, ALL RIGHT?
IT'S A QUESTION OF FEELING. OF FEELING!


MARRYING AN ELITE CIVIL SERVANT,
LIVING IN AN UPSCALE APARTMENT, CLAD IN DESIGNER CLOTHES, DRIVING A HIGH-CLASS IMPORTED CAR—

THEY WERE EXPENSIVE THESE SUIT HER WELL, DON'T YOU THINK?
RAISED WITH AS MUCH CARE AS BUTTER-FLIES OR FLOWERS,
GRADUATING FROM A FIRST-RATE UNIVERSITY, EMPLOYED BY A BIG COMPANY,

SFX: SPLASH SPLASH
SFX: SCATTER
AH!
AKIHIKO, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
IT'S PRETTIER THIS WAY. IT LOOKS LIKE HER MEMORIAL STONE HAS A FLOWER PATTERN.
AND WHO WILL CLEAN— AKIHIKO, HOLD ON! ARE YOU LEAVING IT LIKE THIS?
AKI-HIKO-KUN,
AND HAVING AN ACCIDENT IN THAT VERY SAME CAR— THEY DO SUIT THIS WOMAN WHO ENDED SO GLORI-OUSLY—


AFTER THIS WE'LL ALL HAVE DINNER TOGETHER. YOU SHOULD COME TOO.
BESIDES, WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER SINCE THE 49TH* DAY.
IN THE PAST, YOU ALWAYS CAME OVER TO HANG OUT.

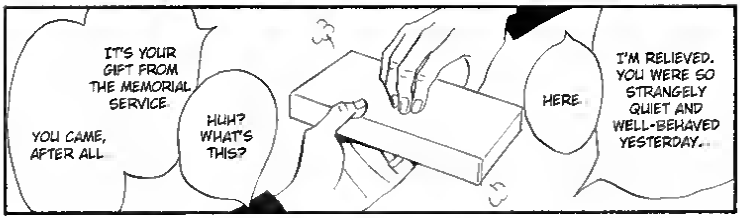
*T/N: Buddhist funeral practices traditionally last for 49 days after the deceased has departed

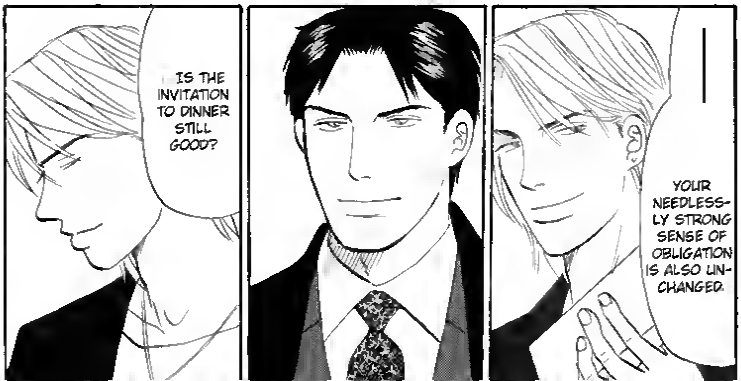
WHEN HER DEATH'S FIRST ANNI-VERSARY PASSES...
I'M SURE SHE'LL FORGIVE THIS.
WE BOTH SHOULD ENJOY LIFE FROM NOW ON.
SEE YOU AROUND

I'M SORRY FOR HIS BEHAVIOR, TOMOYUKI-SAN.
DON'T BE.
I THOUGHT HE MIGHT ACT A LITTLE MORE GROWN UP AFTER MEGUMI'S DEATH, BUT INSTEAD... WHY DID THE STUPID ONE HAVE TO BE THE ONE LEFT...?
I CAN'T BELIEVE HIM.
DON'T BE
SOMEONE.
Shaa

SOME-
BODY
GOD.
shwa
shwa
SOME-
BODY
shwa
SOME-
HOW...
SOME-
HOW
AKIHIKO-
KUN

—AH, HONJOU-SAN.
I DIDN'T THINK THE PLACE YOU WORK AT WOULD ACTUALLY BE A PROPER STORE.
I'M SURPRISED TOO; I THINK THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE COME TO VISIT ME AT WORK.
ANYWAY, I DOUBT WE HAVE ANYTHING TO WEAR THAT WOULD SUIT YOU HERE.
TRUE. THEY ALL LOOK LIKE CLOTHES THAT CHEAP HOSTS OR HOOLIGANS MIGHT WEAR.
YOU STILL TREAT PEOPLE LIKE VERMIN. HOW NICE.

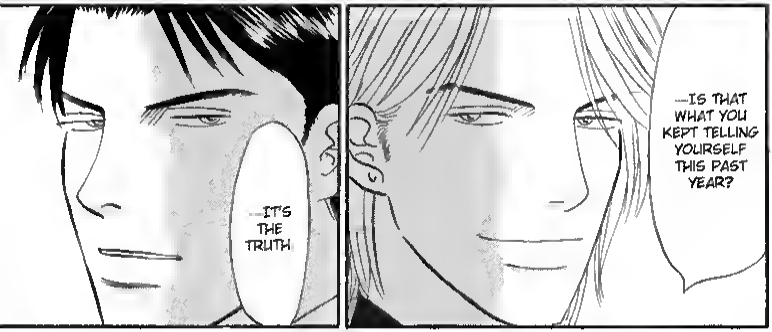

I'M RELIEVED. YOU WERE SO STRANGELY QUIET AND WELL-BEHAVED YESTERDAY...
HERE.
HUH? WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S YOUR GIFT FROM THE MEMORIAL SERVICE.
YOU CAME, AFTER ALL.

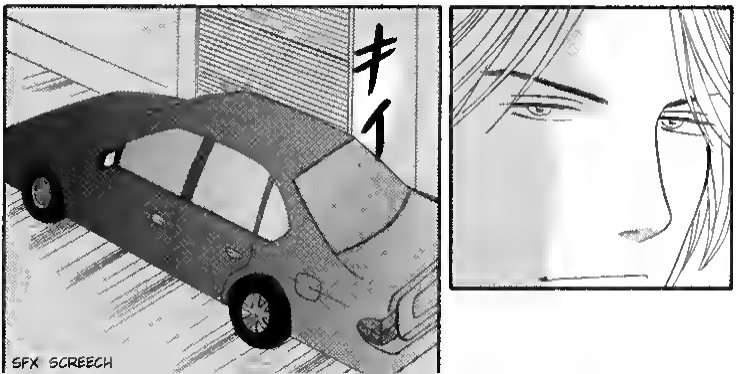

IS THE INVITATION TO DINNER STILL GOOD?
—
YOUR NEEDLESS-LY STRONG SENSE OF OBLIGATION IS ALSO UN-CHANGED.

—IS IT OKAY FOR YOU...
TO PASS THIS PLACE?
WHERE SIS HAD THE ACCIDENT?
I PASS THIS PLACE ALL THE TIME ON MY WAY TO WORK.
DO YOU PRAY HERE?
THERE ARE A LOT OF OTHER PLACES TO REMEMBER HER.
BUT YOU DID MOVE.
YES, IT WAS TOO BIG FOR ONE PERSON.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WHAT D'YOU MEAN?
DO YOU PRAY? AT THAT PLACE.
THERE SEEM TO BE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO PRAY FOR HER SOUL.
IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO PRAY FOR HER. I'D JUST RECEIVE A LECTURE FROM THE OTHER WORLD.*
THAT ACCIDENT ...

*T/N: "Sekkyou," in Japanese, means both "sermon" and "lecture," while playing with the ambiguity

SIS WAS A COOLHEADED WOMAN.
YEAH, AN INEVITABLE ACCIDENT.
IT'S NOT LIKE SHE LOVED YOU SO MUCH THAT SHE WOULD LOSE HER HEAD OVER SEEING SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
MEGUMI'S ACCIDENT PROMPTED THEM TO IMPROVE THE SIGNS THERE.
APPARENTLY, A LOT OF ACCIDENTS HAPPENED THERE BEFORE HER TOO.
ON TOP OF THAT, THERE WAS HEAVY RAIN THAT NIGHT... AN ONCOMING CAR LOST CONTROL...


—IT'S THE TRUTH.
—IS THAT WHAT YOU KEPT TELLING YOURSELF THIS PAST YEAR?


キイ
SFX SCREECH

SFX: RATTLE
WHAT IS IT? ARE WE HERE?
WHERE DO YOU WANT ME TO EAT IN SUCH A SHADY BACK ALLEY?
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED, HAVE YOU?
REALLY, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
YOU'VE BEEN LIKE THIS FROM THE START.
NOTHING MAKES YOU LOSE YOUR COOL. YOU'RE ARROGANT—
MAYBE YOU ACT LIKE THAT BECAUSE YOU SEE THROUGH EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING AROUND YOU?
IT MIGHT BE TRUE THAT I'M LESS CLEVER THAN YOU,
BUT THERE IS JUST ONE THING I SEE MORE CLEARLY THAN YOU DO
YOU'RE ...

WITH THAT SHAMELESS FACE OF YOURS—
IN REALITY, I'M SURE YOU WANT TO BE DOMINATED.
DYING TO BE HELD.
THAT'S WHAT YOUR BODY WANTS.
WHILE DOMINATING PEOPLE AT WORK.
THIS SHAMELESS FACE,
THAT'S RIGHT—
THE TIME HE WATCHED THE NEIGHBORS' CHILDREN,
THE TIME I STEPPED IN DOG SHIT—
THAT GENTLE EXPRESSION SEEMED SO SWEET TO ME—
THAT'S WHY I...
THE WAY IT SOMETIMES SOFTENS...
IS REALLY SWEET, I THOUGHT.

THAT DAY TOO,
STARTED TO LONG FOR—
HE TOLER-ATED MY CARESSES,
WITH THIS SAME SORT OF FEELING.
ALL THE WHILE HOLDING STILL, AS IF HE WERE FROZEN.
OR,
MY WILD GUESS HAD BEEN CORRECT.
……
AKI .
…THIS ISN'T FUNNY .
WHETHER HE WAS TOO SURPRISED BY SOMETHING SO UNSPEAKABLE HAPPENING .
I SAID STOP
Ah…
…STOP…
HE RESISTED ONLY WITH WORDS—

YOU'RE CUTE, HONJOU-SAN!
REALLY CUTE
STOP IT...
ALREADY...
STOP
STOP
Hah.
Hah.
LET ME SEE YOU COME...
Ah!
shiver shiver
Agh...
Aah... Aah.
Splurt
Aah.
U...hh.
Splurt
Uhh!
SFX: CLATTER
SFX: THUD

THUD
Hah
twitch twitch
Hah
MAYBE MEGUMI HAS COME HOME
YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING
JUST NOW,
I HEARD SOME-THING
HONJOU-SAN?
RAIN
SO IT'S RAINING OUTSIDE.
AT THE DOOR
THERE ARE SHOE-PRINTS
YOU'RE MUCH TOO NERVOUS HAVE YOU NEVER BEEN UNFAITHFUL OR WHAT?
THERE'S NO ONE HERE

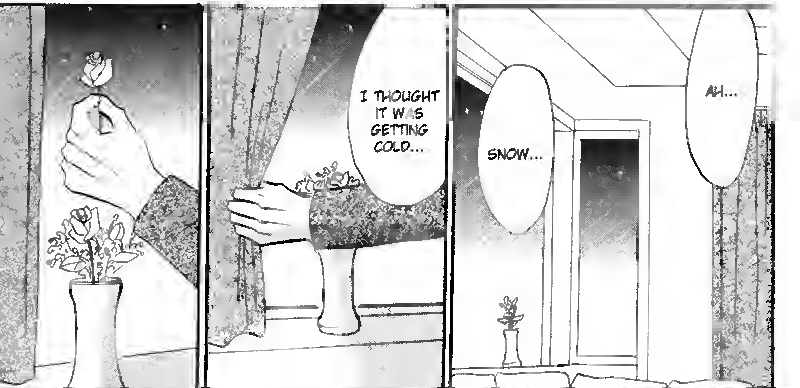
ブオオ・
DON'T PARK IN SUCH A PLACE, YOU IDIOT!!
SFX: VROOM
キキイイッ
SFX: SCREECH
THANK YOU FOR DINNER.
BUT I'M ALREADY FULL.
GET OUT
IF YOU MAKE A LEFT, THERE'S A GREAT RESTAURANT TWO OR THREE MINUTES DOWN THE STREET.

THEY'RE JUST FROM THE SUPER-MARKET.
PUT THEM IN FRONT OF YOUR FAMILY ALTAR.
HONJOU-SAN!
GOOD NIGHT.
THAT, OR YOU TAKE THEM AND MAKE A PASS AT A WOMAN.

SOME-
BODY...
GOD.
shaa
shaa
shaa
FORGIVE
ME.
SOMEONE
PLEASE...
MEGUMI—

WAA-AAA-AAH!
SFX: SHOCK
SINCE WHEN?
SINCE SIS DIED, OF COURSE.
WHEN WAS IT THAT HE STOPPED LAUGHING?

WHILE I WAS RUNNING AWAY,
IT'S HIM.
HE'S BEEN DIGGING THERE ALONE ALL THIS TIME.
HE'S BEEN CRYING AND BEGGING FOR FORGIVENESS IN THE RAIN ALL ALONE.
WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE IT?
THE ONE WHO'S TURNING OVER THE EARTH OF THAT GRAVE ISN'T ME
I HAVE TO STOP HIM.
STOP HIM RIGHT NOW AND...
AND THEN...
AND THEN—

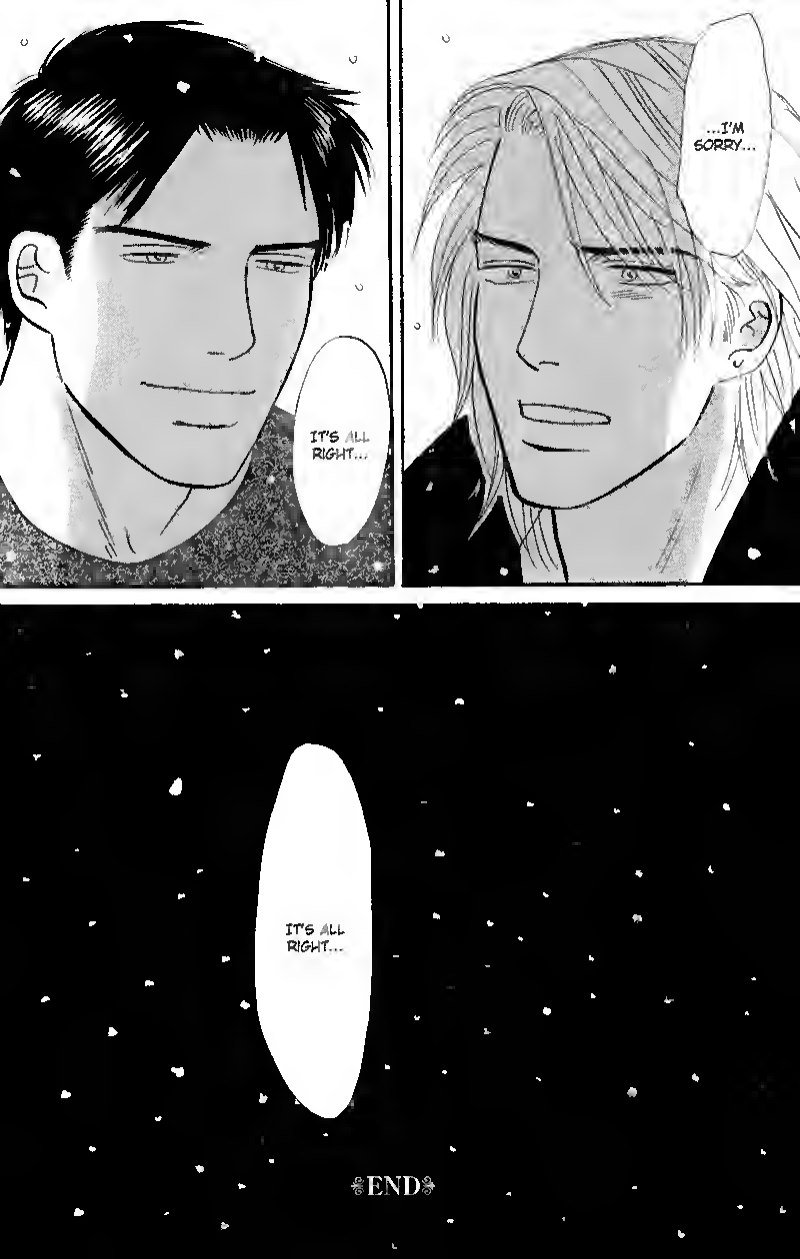

I THOUGHT IT WAS GETTING COLD...
SNOW...
AH...

SCREECH

AKI...
AKIHIKO-KUN?!

AKIHIKO-KUN...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT IN THE COLD WEARING THAT?!
...THANK GOD.
I WAS THINKING I HAVE TO TELL YOU...
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.
IF IT WAS ANYBODY'S FAULT..
IT WAS MY FAULT..
IT'S MY SIN.
I WAS THE ONE WHO FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU.
IT'S MY...
I AM THE ONE WHO CAN'T FORGET YOU. IT'S MY SIN...

IT'S BEEN HARD FOR YOU, HASN'T IT?
I KNEW THAT.
IT'S BEEN HARD FOR ME TOO.
FOR A LONG TIME...
YEAH, I KNEW.
THAT FEELS A LITTLE CLOSER EVERY DAY.
—EVEN IF WE DON'T SEE EACH OTHER,
MORE THAN MEGUMI'S PAIN,
IT'S YOUR PAIN.
I FEEL YOUR PRESENCE
—YOU TURNED ME INTO A CRUEL MAN.
LET'S BOTH SUFFER AS MUCH AS WE CAN.


IT'S ALL RIGHT...
...I'M SORRY...
IT'S ALL RIGHT...
END

いちばんの愛
Ichiban no Ai
The Greatest Love

AH!
MORE
AHH!
AHH..
YES..
MM..
AHH!
YEAH
MM..

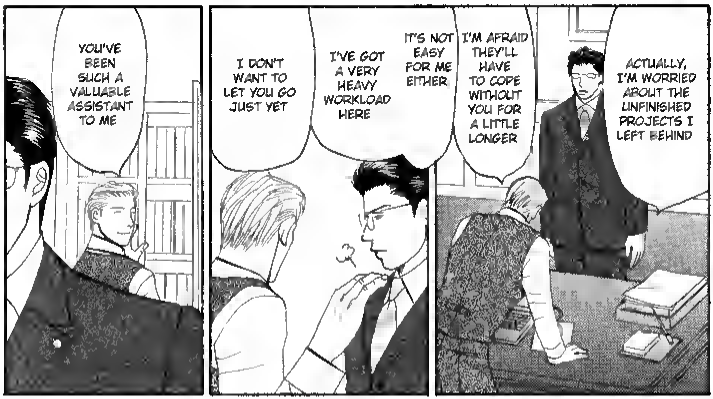
MM!
.....
HEY!
I'M ABOUT TO COME
YEAH, YOU'RE OKAY. COME IN MY MOUTH.
.....
.....
IT'S TOUGH BEING A SECRETARY
BESIDES, I HAVE TO BE AT WORK EARLY TOMORROW
I CAN CHAT UP GUYS ANYWHERE
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD RIGHT NOW
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT THIS, HUH?
WELL DONE
WANNA GO SOMEPLACE PRIVATE WHERE WE CAN CHILL OUT?

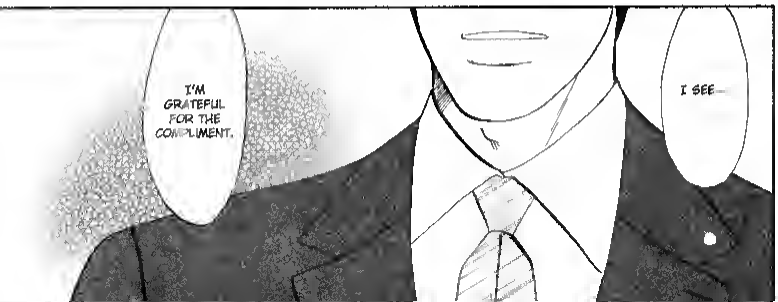
SECTION CHIEF MASAKI, THE REPORT FROM THE SALES DIVISION CAME IN LATE HERE YOU GO
DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO CALL ME SECTION CHIEF?
THERE'S NO USE CALLING ME BY MY OLD TITLE SECTION THREE'S SALES RESULTS AREN'T MY RESPONSIBILITY ANYMORE
OH YEAH YOU'RE NOW SECRETARY TO THE COMPANY PRESIDENT... SO I SHOULD CALL YOU EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT HUH?
JUST USE 'SAN' AT THE END OF MY NAME THIS FIRM IS TRYING TO DO AWAY WITH THE TRADITION OF ADDRESSING STAFF BY THEIR JOB TITLE
I SUPPOSE SECTION THREE PERFORMED THE WORST AGAIN, RIGHT?
WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE YOU LEFT US, MASAKI-SAN! WE'VE BEEN GOING BACKWARDS EVER SINCE!
.....
BUT LISTEN! I HEAR THE FORMER SECRETARY'S OUT OF THE HOSPITAL NOW! SO ONCE YOU RETURN TO BEING OUR SECTION CHIEF, OUR SALES SHOULD BOUNCE BACK TO NORMAL!
Hahaha!

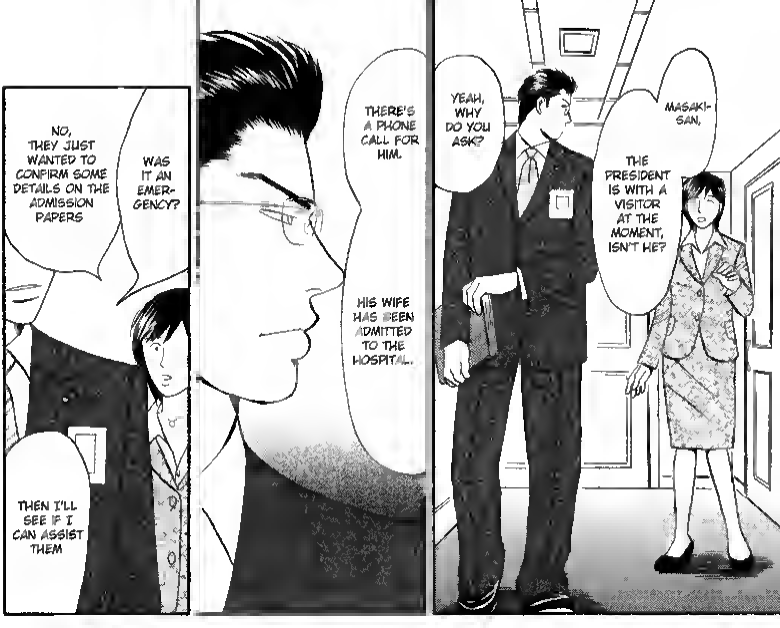
THE PRESIDENT LOOKS AT THAT PICTURE FROM DAWN TO DUSK EACH DAY!
HEY, STOP THAT! DON'T LEAVE FINGERPRINTS THERE!
I WAS AFRAID OF THIS! TWICE A DAY YOU BRING MAIL TO THE EXECUTIVE SUITE AS AN EXCUSE TO STICK YOUR NOSE IN MY BUSINESS!
NOW GET BACK TO WORK!
ALL RIGHT!
HUH? BUT YOU MUST'VE BEEN STANDING IN FOR HIM FOR ALMOST A YEAR NOW, CHIEF!
APPARENTLY BEING A SECRETARY PROVED TOO MUCH FOR HIS HEALTH, SO ANOTHER QUALIFIED PERSON IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE JOB
YOU MIGHT AS WELL TAKE THE JOB FULL-TIME
wipe
AM I REALLY ACTING
LIKE AN OFFICE WIFE?
SHEESH!
I'LL GO TELL EVERYONE WHAT A GREAT JOB YOU'RE DOING, CHIEF! YOU'RE THE IDEAL OFFICE WIFE FOR OUR PRESIDENT!
IS THAT WHAT I AM TO THE PRESIDENT?
PRESIDENT SHIRASAKI?
PRESIDENT?

AM I A WIFE TO HIM?
AHH MASAKI-KUN!
I WAS JUST LOOKING THROUGH MY DIARY
I TAKE ONE LOOK AT HIM SITTING THERE AND I STRIVE TO DO AN EXCELLENT JOB
SHOUWA SHOUJI-SAMA WILL ARRIVE AT 11 A.M.
BY ALWAYS PUTTING BUSINESS FIRST
THEN IF YOU'RE FREE LATER, HE'D LIKE YOU TO JOIN HIM FOR LUNCH
BUT HAVEN'T YOU GOT A MEETING THIS AFTERNOON? IN THAT CASE, I'D LIKE TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A PROPER LUNCH BREAK BEFOREHAND
SO WILL YOU BE FREE?
HEY, WE'VE HAD LUNCH TOGETHER BEFORE I LIKE TO HAVE ONGOING TALKS WITH YOU, THAT'S ALL

ARE THOSE THE APPLICANTS FOR THE SECRETARY POST?
THEN I'LL DECLINE, WHICH WILL LEAVE YOUR SCHEDULE FREE TO HAVE LUNCH WITH YOUR VISITOR...
YEAH SO FAR WE HAVE FIVE CANDIDATES
I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE FAMILIAR WITH MANAGEMENT AND SALES AN IDEAL CANDIDATE WOULD BE AN EXECUTIVE WITH PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE
...BUT YOU PREFER TO GO BACK TO THE SALES DIVISION DON'T YOU?


ACTUALLY, I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE UNFINISHED PROJECTS I LEFT BEHIND
I'M AFRAID THEY'LL HAVE TO COPE WITHOUT YOU FOR A LITTLE LONGER
IT'S NOT EASY FOR ME EITHER
I'VE GOT A VERY HEAVY WORKLOAD HERE
I DON'T WANT TO LET YOU GO JUST YET
YOU'VE BEEN SUCH A VALUABLE ASSISTANT TO ME


I SEE...
I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE COMPLIMENT.


MASAKI-SAN,
THE PRESIDENT IS WITH A VISITOR AT THE MOMENT, ISN'T HE?
YEAH, WHY DO YOU ASK?
THERE'S A PHONE CALL FOR HIM.
HIS WIFE HAS BEEN ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL.
WAS IT AN EMERGENCY?
NO, THEY JUST WANTED TO CONFIRM SOME DETAILS ON THE ADMISSION PAPERS
THEN I'LL SEE IF I CAN ASSIST THEM

HELLO, THIS IS SECRETARY MASAKI SPEAKING
SO YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW HER INSURANCE DETAILS? IN THAT CASE I'LL CONFIRM THEM FOR YOU AT ONCE
HOSPITAL DETAILS
I'M SURE THE FORMER SECRETARY WOULD'VE KEPT THEM HERE SOMEWHERE.
HERE'S THE PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE FILE

YOU REALLY EAT LIKE A PIG, DON'T YOU? YOU'RE LIKE A STARVING KID! YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER AT YOUR AGE
YOU LOOK LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON WHEN YOUR MOUTH IS STUFFED WITH FOOD
WAS IT A BIZARRE PLOT TWIST?
BY THE END OF THE NOVEL
THE MAIN CHARACTER AND THE BOY WERE BOTH DEAD BUT THIS WRITER'S DONE IT BEFORE
WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO GET MARRIED?
WHY?
POTENTIAL PARTNERS WILL WALK OUT ON YOU DURING YOUR MATCHMAKING INTERVIEW A DAUGHTER OF A RICH BANKER WOULDN'T STAND FOR IT
I'D PREFER IF WE AVOIDED THE SUBJECT OF MATCH-MAKING INTERVIEWS
YOU ALWAYS FIND IT FUNNY TO WATCH ME EAT!
DON'T WORRY, I'LL BUY YOU A NEW ONE.
OH NO! MY TIE!
LOOK, THERE'S SAUCE NEAR YOUR MOUTH.
I'M A PRIVATE PERSON BY NATURE.

B-BUT I FEEL THIS PATTERN IS A BIT TOO LOUD FOR THE OFFICE!
PRESIDENT, I KNOW HOW TO DO UP MY OWN TIE!
HURRY UP AND TRY IT ON.
THIS LOOKS GOOD.
IT'S MY FAULT FOR MAKING IT DIRTY.
IT'S FINE, PRESIDENT! I'LL BUY MY OWN!
THAT COSTS TOO MUCH!

WHERE'S THE PRESIDENT GONE?
HUH?
OF COURSE, I'LL HAVE TO REPAY AT LEAST HALF THE COST...

BAGS

SINCE LAST MONTH SHE'S BEEN VIRTUALLY COMATOSE.
YOU PROBABLY KNOW THIS ALREADY.
HONESTLY, I DOUBT SHE'LL BE LEAVING THE HOSPITAL THIS TIME.
ARE YOU CHOOSING A GET-WELL GIFT FOR YOUR WIFE WHEN SHE COMES OUT OF THE HOSPITAL?
PRESI-DENT, I...
IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.
WE'D BETTER GO BACK IT'LL BE TIME FOR YOUR MEETING SOON

PUB
HOTEL
TOI LET
UH...
YOU DON'T LOOK IT,
BUT YOU'RE A REAL HORNY SLUT!
CAN'T YOU TALK AND TOUCH ME AT THE SAME TIME?
STROKE ME HARDER!
YOU'RE NOT RUBBING ME ENOUGH!
YOU TELLING ME WHAT TO DO?
AHH!
OOH .. WHOA! YOU'VE GOT A GREAT ASS!
MM!
MM...
UH...

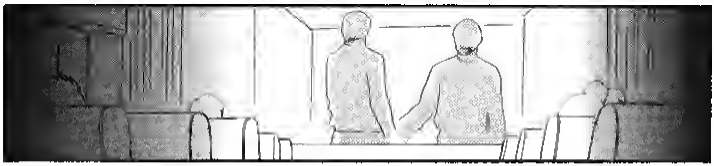
EVIEW
NO DOUBT YOU SPEAK FROM EXPERIENCE ABOUT THE PITFALLS OF FOREIGN OWNERSHIP, PRESIDENT—
BUT THAT'S THE PREVAILING TREND IN OUR INDUSTRY
SO SHOULD WE GO DOWN THE SAME PATH AS THE REST OF OUR COMPETITORS? I SAY WE MUST CONSOLIDATE THIS FIRM, NOT SELL IT OFF PIECE BY PIECE!
WE SIMPLY CAN'T SELL OFF OUR RESEARCH DIVISION,
LET ALONE OUR MANUFAC-TURING PLANT!
SLASH THOSE DEPARTMENTS AND WE'LL NEVER HAVE A DYNAMIC BUSINESS AGAIN!
PRESI-DENT?
PRESIDENT SHIRASAKI ?

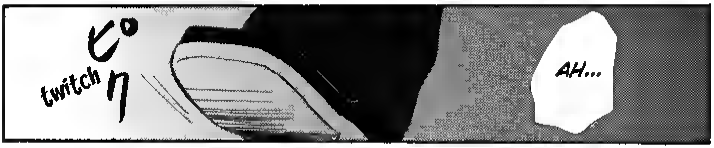
IT'S MERELY A LACK OF SLEEP THE PET CAT WAS SICK LAST NIGHT, SPEWING AND SHITTING ALL OVER THE PLACE. IT LEFT ONE HELL OF A MESS THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE.
NO, I DIDN'T MEAN I'VE JUST NEVER SEEN YOU SO TIRED...
I TOOK IT TO THE VET AND CLEANED EVERYTHING UP BEFORE COMING HERE.
SO YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME.
OH, WHAT IS IT, MASAKI-KUN?
LOOK, YOU'D BE UPSET TOO IF YOU WERE TREATED LIKE AN ELDERLY MAN!
PARDON ME FOR KNOCKING ON YOUR DOOR.
I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE TAKING A BREAK.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE! I'M TALKING TO YOU!
DO I SEEM TOO OLD TO YOU?
WELL, DO I?
NO...
UH...
LOOK, DON'T TREAT ME AS IF I'M TOO OLD!
PRESIDENT, YOU'RE SWEARING LIKE A STREET PUNK!
HUH? BUT EVERYONE SAYS YOU'RE YOUNG FOR A PRESIDENT.
ABOUT YOUR HOUSE...

YOU SHOULD HIRE A MAID TO CLEAN YOUR HOUSE FOR YOU.
DO YOU WISH ME TO GO AND CLEAN THE PLACE FOR YOU WHEN I HAVE TIME?
CLEAN THE PLACE?
ARE YOU SURE?
BUT I GUESS I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE CAT.
AT FIRST I DISLIKED CATS. I WANTED TO KEEP A DOG.
YET THIS TOMCAT TOOK A LIKING TO ME.
AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, I BEGAN TO APPRECIATE HAVING HIM AROUND.
PRESIDENT...
YOU'VE BROUGHT UP SOME WEIRD TOPICS LATELY.
I FELT YOU WERE TRYING TO INFLUENCE ME WHEN YOU BROUGHT UP THE TOPIC OF MATCHMAKING INTERVIEWS.
W-WHAT?! WHY ARE YOU...
WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOUR WIFE INSTEAD? MAYBE THAT MIGHT CONVINCE ME OF THE JOYS OF MARRIAGE.
I'M NOT DISCUSSING MY WIFE HERE WITH YOU!!
THEN WHAT'S GOING ON?

rattle
カタ
I'LL REQUEST A BACKGROUND CHECK ON HER FOR YOU, BUT IF YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED...
FINE! I'LL GET TO THE POINT! I KNOW THIS LADY!
SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF AN INFLUENTIAL INVESTMENT BANKER!
IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME. WERE YOU GOING TO REVIEW HER BACKGROUND YOURSELF, PRESIDENT?
MAKES NO DIFFERENCE? YEAH, I KNOW SOMEONE WHO RUNS A PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY. FROM THE BEGINNING... HE'S COME IN VERY HANDY
BUT I HAVE A HUNCH YOU'RE THE TYPE OF MAN WHO'D HATE TO BE SUBJECTED TO SUCH A CHECK. HONESTLY, ARE YOU WILLING TO PROCEED WITH THE FORMAL MATCHMAKING PROCESS?
YES, I'LL DO IT
SO YOU'RE WILLING TO GET MARRIED?
YES. BECAUSE OF THE STIRRING SPEECH YOU DELIVERED IN THE BOARDROOM MEETING...
IT INSPIRED ME TO TAKE THE PLUNGE...

CINEMA
サウナ
SAUNA
SNOWS
PEEP




ピク
twitch
AH...

AAH!

ding
CLACK
CLACK
wipe
CLACK
CLACK
GOOD MORNING, PRESIDENT
CLACK
CLACK

I'VE CONFIRMED YOUR SCHEDULE FOR TODAY.
AT 10 A.M. YOU HAVE A STAFF MEETING AT 11 A.M. THE PRESIDENT OF DAITOYOU BANK WILL BE PAYING YOU A VISIT
WHAT WERE YOU UP TO?
AT 12 P.M. YOU HAVE A MANAGEMENT SEMINAR FOLLOWED BY A LUNCH MEETING
WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO PULL?
YOU NEVER TOOK THE MATCHMAKING PROCESS SERIOUSLY, DID YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
EXPLAIN THIS TO ME!
rustle
I SEE
I GUESS I SHOULD'VE KNOWN PHOTOS WOULD BE TAKEN AS PART OF MY BACK-GROUND CHECK.
I'M GLAD THEY FOUND OUT
HOW CAN YOU BE GLAD ABOUT THIS?!
I THINK IT'S BEST THEY SEE ME FOR WHAT I REALLY AM.
ESPECIALLY THE WOMAN WHO IS ABOUT TO BE MY WIFE.
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE REALLY LIKE? IS THAT THE REAL YOU?
NOW YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU?

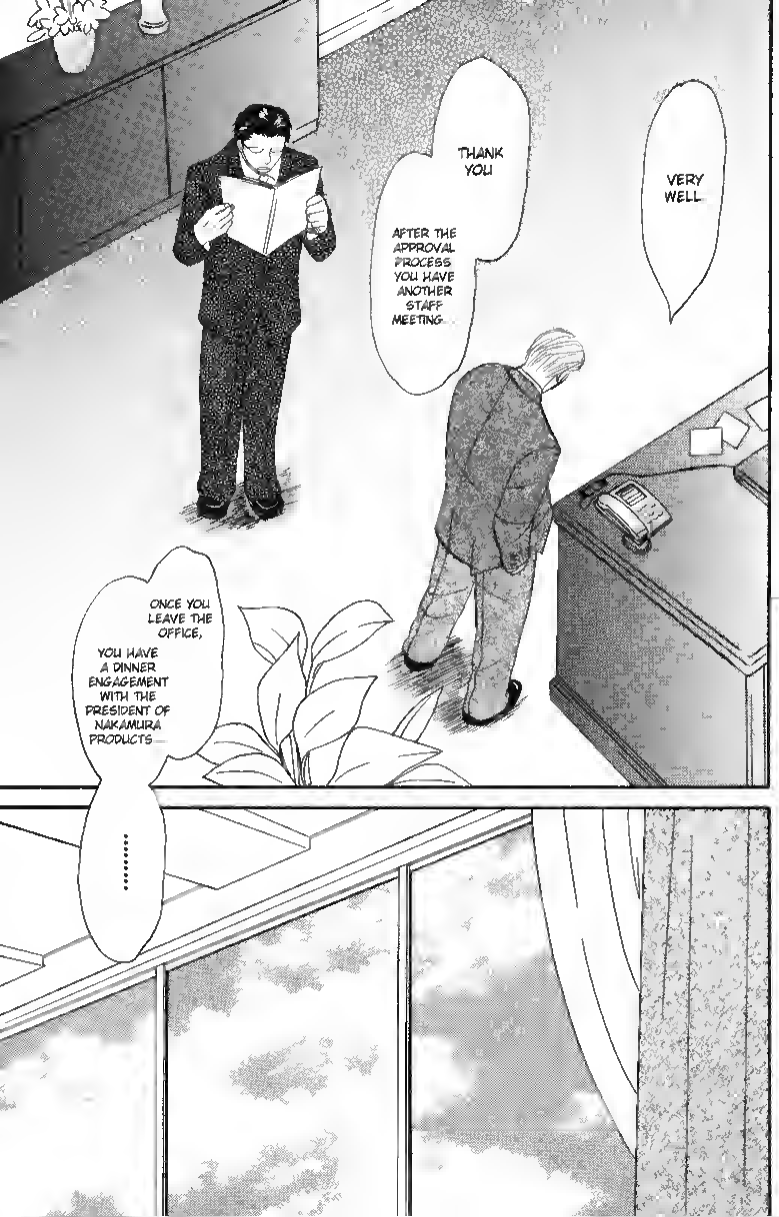
I GUESS I'VE NOTICED
I'M THE KIND OF MAN WHO CAN'T APPRECIATE WOMEN
ALL RIGHT, I GET IT
DO YOU?
YOU'RE THE KIND OF MAN WHO CAN APPRECIATE WOMEN
SO YOU DON'T GET SOMEONE LIKE ME AT ALL, DO YOU?
BUT WHY SINK TO SUCH LEVELS OF DEPRAVITY?!
SURELY A GAY MAN WOULD BE BETTER OFF DATING A REGULAR BOYFRIEND,
INSTEAD OF GOING TO THAT SLEAZY CINEMA TO BE GROPED BY SEVERAL MEN—
IT'S A CONVENIENT PLACE FOR ME TO SATISFY MY LUST WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED
INITIALLY I WAS DISGUSTED BY SUCH PICK-UP JOINTS,
BUT I BECAME MORE AND MORE TEMPTED WITH EACH PASSING DAY, AND MY CURIOSITY FINALLY GOT THE BETTER OF ME
THEN WHAT—

WHAT ABOUT ME?
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ATTRACTED TO ME?
ARE YOU ASKING ME BECAUSE YOU NOW KNOW I'M GAY?
SO HOW ABOUT YOU? WHY HAVE YOU BEEN SO NICE TO ME?
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS GIVE ME THOSE INTENSE LOOKS?
IT WAS YOU!
YOU STARTED IT!
EVER SINCE YOU ARRIVED, I'VE BEEN STRUGGLING TO KEEP MY FEELINGS IN CHECK
BUT IT DIDN'T MATTER, DID IT? ALL THIS TIME, ANY MAN WOULD'VE BEEN ENOUGH FOR YOU!
COULD YOU..
..TAKE HOLD OF MY HAND?

DID YOU THINK YOUR LOYAL SECRETARY, THE MAN IN WHOM YOU PLACE YOUR TRUST...
...WAS A SWEET AND CHARMING GUY?
DID YOU GET A LAUGH OUT OF RUINING HIS TIE AND TEASING HIM ABOUT MATCHMAKING INTERVIEWS?
FEEL THIS HAND.
WITH THIS HAND, I'VE TOUCHED MANY MEN. THEY GO CRUISING FOR SEX NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, JUST LIKE ME.
NOW THAT YOU KNOW, WILL YOU CONTINUE BEING SO NICE TO ME?
HOW ABOUT I CHANGE MY HABITS FOR YOU?
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO OFFER MY SERVICES IN THE BEDROOM AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR YOUR WIFE?
OR WOULD YOU RATHER WE WAIT UNTIL YOUR WIFE PASSES AWAY—
110
SLAP

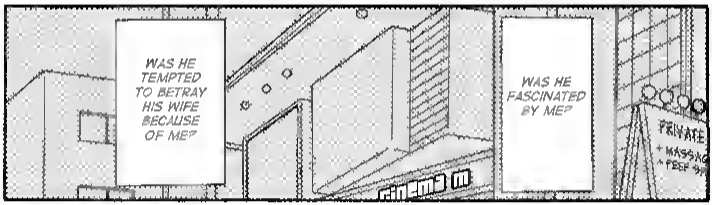
AFTER YOUR LUNCH MEETING...
.....
YOUR VISIT TO MINISTER KIHARA'S OFFICE REMAINS UNCHANGED
AT 5 P.M. YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO YOUR OFFICE.
FOR THE CASE APPROVAL PROCESS—
YOU HAVE AN INSPECTION OF THE RESEARCH FACILITY AT 2 P.M.
WHERE YOU'LL BE JOINED BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
PRESIDENT—

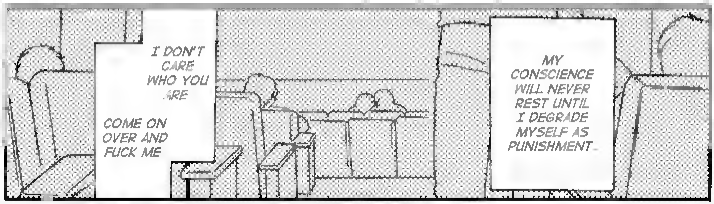
M-MAY I BE DISMISSED FROM THE SECRETARIAL POST?
Y-YOU'LL HAVE TO...
...FORGIVE ME

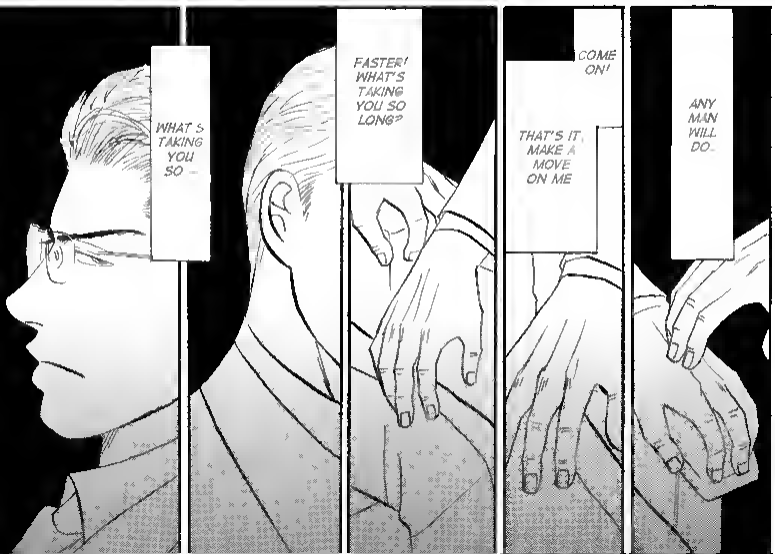

VERY WELL.
THANK YOU
AFTER THE APPROVAL PROCESS YOU HAVE ANOTHER STAFF MEETING.
ONCE YOU LEAVE THE OFFICE,
YOU HAVE A DINNER ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT OF NAKAMURA PRODUCTS—
……

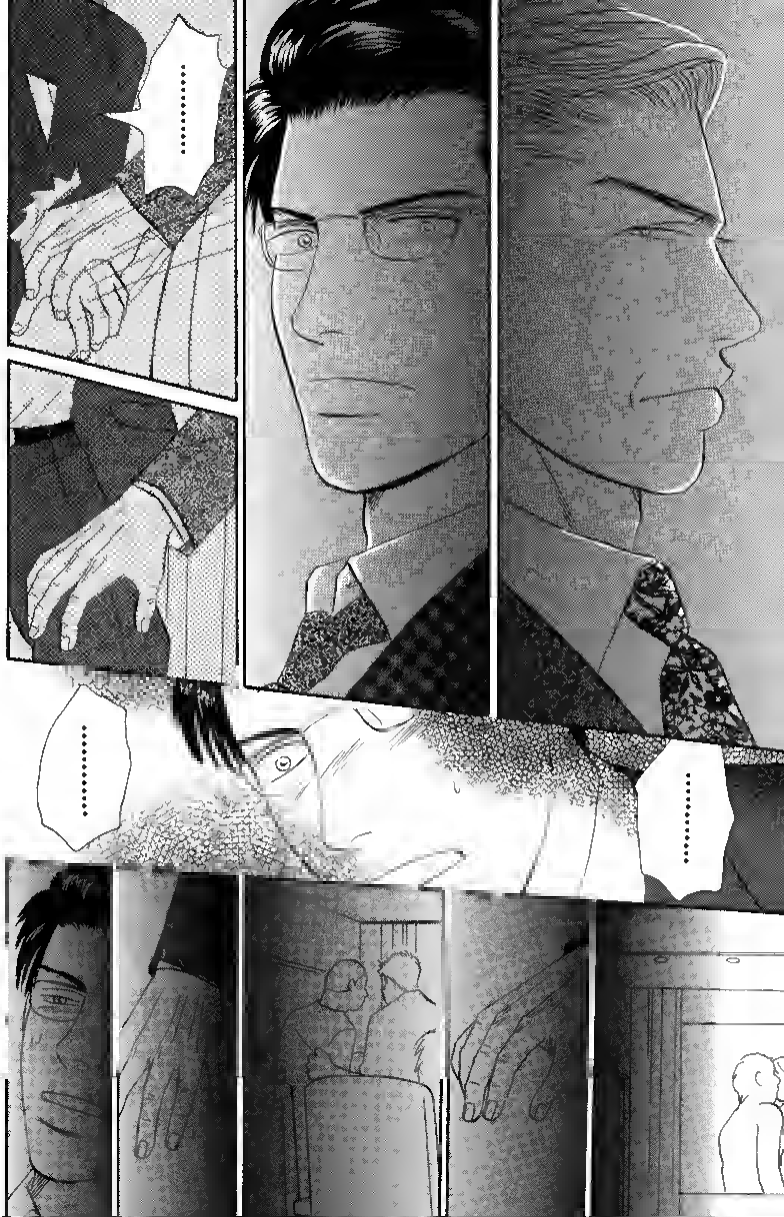
I WAS ALLOWED TO GO BACK TO THE SALES DIVISION
I HAD NO IDEA WHAT MADE ME, A MERE EMPLOYEE, BE SO RUDE TO THE PRESIDENT
I ASSUME
HE MUST HAVE FORGIVEN ME
I NEVER DID ANYTHING WRONG
I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS UPSET
I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS SLAPPED ACROSS THE FACE
EXCEPT FALL IN LOVE WITH THE PRESIDENT.
EVEN NOW, I'M STILL IN LOVE WITH HIM.
BUT I NEVER DID ANYTHING WRONG DID I?

SO WHY DO I FEEL AS IF I SOMEHOW COMPROMISED THE PRESIDENT?
OF COURSE I WAS WRONG
TO KEEP GAZING AT HIM


WAS HE TEMPTED TO BETRAY HIS WIFE BECAUSE OF ME?
WAS HE FASCINATED BY ME?
PRIVATE


I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE
COME ON OVER AND FUCK ME
MY CONSCIENCE WILL NEVER REST UNTIL I DEGRADE MYSELF AS PUNISHMENT...


WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO...
FASTER! WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG?
COME ON!
THAT'S IT, MAKE A MOVE ON ME
ANY MAN WILL DO...


……
……
……

I'll PULL
SHH!

slide
thud
AH...
AAH...
HAA...

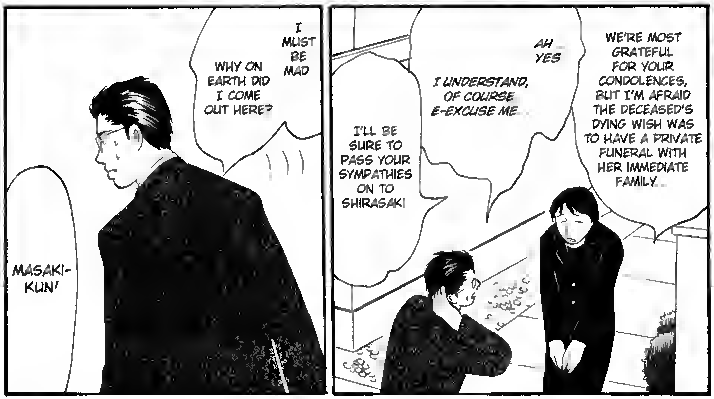
AHH!
UH!
.....
creak
Creak
UH!
creak
MM!
AAH!
AAH!
creak
AH!
HAA!
creak
HAA!
AH...
AAH...
shiver
shiver
shiver
creak
DAMN!
creak
creak

mm!
thunk
mm!
mmm!
ngh!
thunk thunk
huff
huff

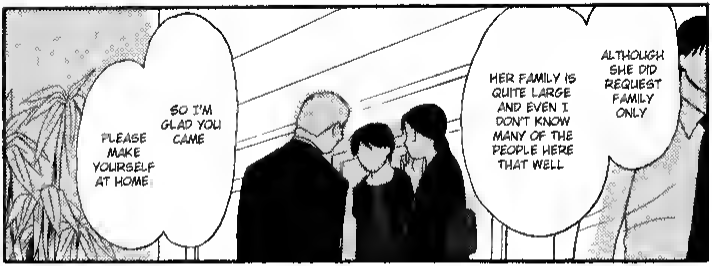
FROM THAT DAY ON,

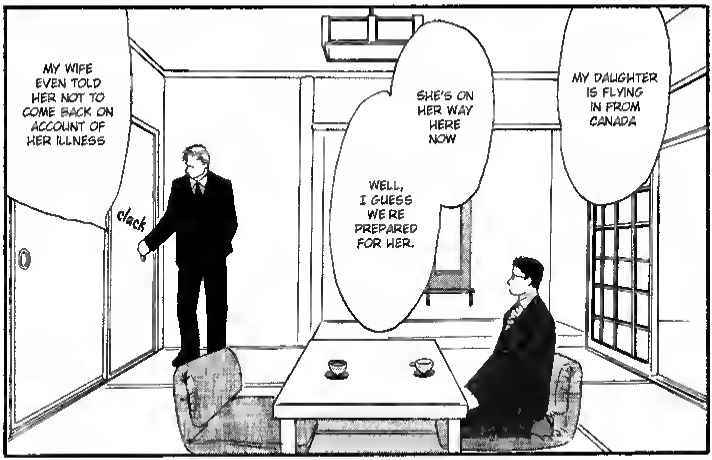
I NEVER WENT BACK TO THAT JOINT AGAIN
PRESI-DENT
PRESIDENT!
YESTERDAY MORNING
YES, I HEARD IT FINALLY HAPPENED
REALLY? THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE?
B4
B4

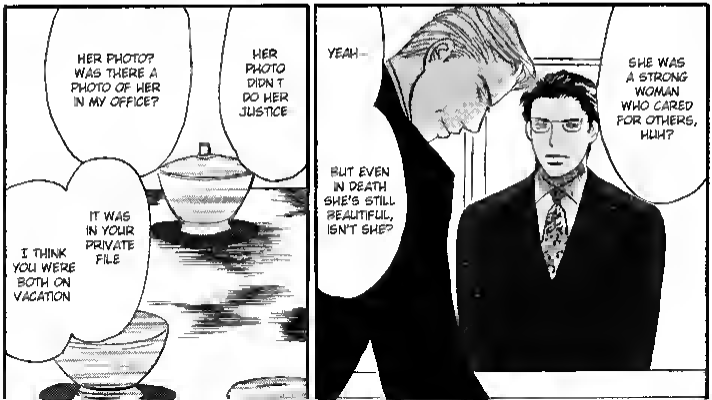
BEFORE HER DEATH, SHE REQUESTED A PRIVATE FUNERAL WITH ONLY HER FAMILY IN ATTENDANCE.
PERHAPS SHE WENT PEACEFULLY WITHOUT TOO MUCH PAIN OR SUFFERING
THEIR SON IS OVERSEAS, YOU KNOW
WELL, I WONDER IF HE'S SINGLE


I MUST BE MAD
WHY ON EARTH DID I COME OUT HERE?
MASAKI-KUN!
AH... YES
I UNDERSTAND, OF COURSE E-EXCUSE ME...
I'LL BE SURE TO PASS YOUR SYMPATHIES ON TO SHIRASAKI
WE'RE MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONDOLENCES, BUT I'M AFRAID THE DECEASED'S DYING WISH WAS TO HAVE A PRIVATE FUNERAL WITH HER IMMEDIATE FAMILY...

DO COME IN
IT'S FINE

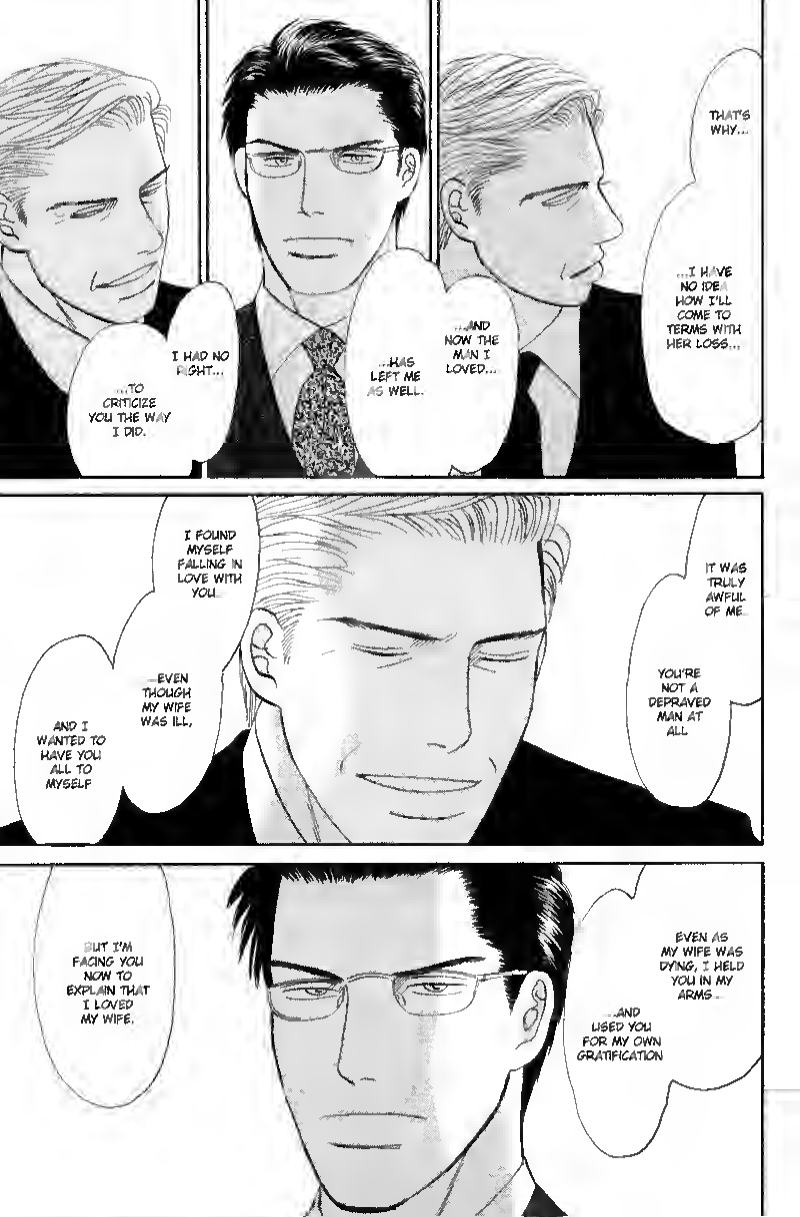

ALTHOUGH SHE DID REQUEST FAMILY ONLY
HER FAMILY IS QUITE LARGE AND EVEN I DON'T KNOW MANY OF THE PEOPLE HERE THAT WELL
SO I'M GLAD YOU CAME
PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME


MY DAUGHTER IS FLYING IN FROM CANADA
SHE'S ON HER WAY HERE NOW
WELL, I GUESS WE'RE PREPARED FOR HER.
MY WIFE EVEN TOLD HER NOT TO COME BACK ON ACCOUNT OF HER ILLNESS
clack


SHE WAS A STRONG WOMAN WHO CARED FOR OTHERS, HUH?
YEAH—
BUT EVEN IN DEATH SHE'S STILL BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T SHE?
HER PHOTO DIDN'T DO HER JUSTICE
HER PHOTO? WAS THERE A PHOTO OF HER IN MY OFFICE?
IT WAS IN YOUR PRIVATE FILE
I THINK YOU WERE BOTH ON VACATION

SHE SEEMED BORED WHEN SHE WENT TRAVELING WITH ME,
AND I WAS BORED AS WELL
...WITH THE NON-STOP SHOPPING AND HECTIC SIGHT-SEEING.
I WAS FED UP WITH IT
...WITH HER FRIENDS INSTEAD OF WITH ME.
SINCE THEN SHE'D GO ON HOLIDAY A COUPLE OF TIMES A YEAR
ON VACATION, HUH?
THE LAST TIME WE WENT ON HOLIDAY TOGETHER WAS ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO.

WHEN HER ILLNESS BECAME TERMINAL, SHE FOUND OUT THE TRUTH
PERHAPS HE WAS EVEN THE ONE WHO TOLD HER
AS TIME WENT ON, I TOOK MY WIFE'S PRESENCE FOR GRANTED
IT WAS MORE LIKE A SERIES OF TRIALS AND FRUSTRA-TIONS
BUT BEING A MARRIED MAN WITH A MALE LOVER WASN'T ALL THAT WONDERFUL TO BEGIN WITH
YET I KEPT THINKING SHE MIGHT WAKE UP BY SOME MIRACLE AND COME BACK TO ME AGAIN


THAT'S WHY...
...I HAVE NO IDEA HOW I'LL COME TO TERMS WITH HER LOSS...
...AND NOW THE MAN I LOVED...
...HAS LEFT ME AS WELL.
I HAD NO RIGHT...
...TO CRITICIZE YOU THE WAY I DID.
IT WAS TRULY AWFUL OF ME.
YOU'RE NOT A DEPRAVED MAN AT ALL.
I FOUND MYSELF FALLING IN LOVE WITH YOU.
...EVEN THOUGH MY WIFE WAS ILL,
AND I WANTED TO HAVE YOU ALL TO MYSELF.
EVEN AS MY WIFE WAS DYING, I HELD YOU IN MY ARMS...
...AND USED YOU FOR MY OWN GRATIFICATION.
BUT I'M FACING YOU NOW TO EXPLAIN THAT I LOVED MY WIFE.

I'M FACING YOU TO EXPLAIN...
YOU'VE BEEN THINKING OF ME, I KNOW.
BUT I NEED TO TELL SOME-ONE...
PLEASE HEAR ME OUT...
I DID LOVE MY WIFE.

SHE'S THE GREATEST LOVE OF MY LIFE NOW...
AND SHE'LL BE THE GREATEST... FOREVER.
I LOVED HER... THE MOST...
MY WIFE— MIE...

I KNOW.
I KNEW ALL ALONG...

...THAT YOU LOVED YOUR WIFE THE MOST.
I KNEW ALL ALONG.
THAT'S WHY I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU.
THAT'S WHY.

YOU'RE MY GREATEST LOVE
...NOW AND FOREVER
END

恋のカタチ

KOI NO KATACHI
THE FACE OF LOVE

LOVE...
LET'S FALL IN LOVE.
WITH WHOM?

"FROM A ROOFTOP YOU CAN LIFT YOUR EYES TO THE EMPTY SKY" --THAT'S WHY I'M PIERCED WITH FEELINGS OF UNEASINESS UP HERE.
ISN'T THAT SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT?
CAN'T WE GO ANYWHERE FROM HERE?

UM.
GEEZ. PLAYING HOOKY FROM CLASS LIKE A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.
THE FEELING OF BEING COOPED UP WILL DISPERSE QUICKLY, PLEASE GO BACK.
NO, I COULDN'T BEAR FEELING COOPED UP IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AND I THOUGHT I'D TAKE AN OPPORTUNITY TO USE THE RESTROOM.
I MUST PERSIST IN REMINDING YOU THAT YOU ARE AN OUTSIDER I CAN SAY WITH CONFIDENCE AS AN EMPLOYEE, PLEASE DON'T PROWL AROUND AT YOUR OWN WHIM!
WHEREVER I GO
I SEE CLOUDS SHAPED LIKE PENISES
OOOO

《END》

BAMBOO COMICS

REIJIN selection

素晴らしい失恋

◆

2008年1月27日初版発行　検印廃止

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発行者　牧村康正
発行所　株式会社竹書房
東京都千代田区飯田橋2-7-3
郵便番号102 0072
電話　東京03-3264-1576(代表)
電話　東京03-3234-6245(編集)
振替　00170-2-179210
ホームページ　http //www takeshobo co jp
印刷所　図書印刷株式会社

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Printed in Japan